

The Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Amherst, New Hampshire



*“Whether you come back by page or by the big screen,
Hogwarts will always be there to welcome you home.”*

—J. K. Rowling

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Amherst, New Hampshire

November 3, 2019

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING CHIMES

Let us be gathered in silence so that we may prepare to worship.

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

Come, Come, Ye Saints

Marilyn Thompson

INTROIT

Chancel Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, let us worship together.
Let us open our minds to the challenge of reason,
open our hearts to the healing of love,
open our lives to the calling of conscience,
open our souls to the comfort of joy.

All: **Astonished by the miracle of life,
grateful for the gift of fellowship,
confident in the power of living faith,
we are here gathered:
Come, let us worship together.**

*HYMN

God of Abraham and Sarah

inside back pages

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

Gracious God, make each of us an instrument of Your grace. Weave us into a community showing forth Your power and tenderness. Bless us and our differences and under gird our courage to stand together. We ask You this day to gather us in Your love. Lead us to better know You and glorify You on each step of the journey of our lives, and as we lift unto You the words Jesus taught us, saying together: **Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

*GLORIA PATRI (Tune #579)

Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and Holy Spirit, One;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of God be with you. AND ALSO WITH YOU.

ANTHEM

Hush! Somebody's Callin' My Name
Chancel Choir

Brazeal Dennard

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 19:1-10

Page 912

SERMON

"God Out of Bounds"

*HYMN

Community of Christ

inside back pages

You are invited to write your joys and concerns on the prayer cards in the pews, and pass to the minister to be lifted in prayer at this time.

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

Chancel Choir

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Along with our offering collected this morning, we dedicate the generous contributions of those who give monthly or electronically. All of our offerings support the work and witness of Jesus Christ here in this place and in the wider world. Each is given to the glory of God in faithful appreciation for many received blessings. Thanks be to God!

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Pastorale on "My God, Thy Table Now is Spread"

Edward Miller/
Franklin Ashdown

*DOXOLOGY (Tune: *From All That Dwell Below the Skies*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below. Alleluia, Alleluia.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

We dedicate this offering to the work of Your kingdom here on earth. May this collection be used wisely and diligently, that Your love may be known widely. And as we dedicate this offering, we also dedicate ourselves to the work of peace, justice, and reconciliation throughout our community and the world. For this we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

ORGAN MEDITATION

Reflection on "Love Unknown"

John Ireland/
David Lasky

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We welcome all people to join in receiving this sacrament. Children may participate at the discretion of their parents. The cup contains grape juice. For those who wish to receive gluten, wheat and dairy-free communion bread, it can be found in the bowl on the communion plate.

CALL TO COMMUNION

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Holy God, we turn to You, like the disciples on the shore, who experienced Your presence and were overcome with a sense of their own limitations. We, too, are awed and frightened by the possibilities of Your call. We are afraid to enter the deeper waters of understanding and engagement with our world. We have trusted our old patterns and resisted Your call to begin afresh. We have doubted when called to do service in Your name. We ask Your forgiveness, and for return to wholeness. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

COMMUNION PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION and CONSECRATING PRAYER

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

In the tradition of our church, let us partake of the bread as it is served, remembering our individual uniqueness in the eyes of God and our diversity within the Body of Christ. Let us hold the cup until all have been served, remembering our oneness with God and our unity in the Body of Christ.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison)

We give thanks, almighty God, that You have refreshed us at Your table by granting us the presence of Your Son Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN	<i>Sent Forth by God's Blessing</i>	inside back pages
*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD		
*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION		
*CHORAL RESPONSE		Chancel Choir
*POSTLUDE	<i>Fanfare: A Mighty Fortress</i>	Martin Luther/ Fenton Groden

(*Indicates that those who are able may stand.)

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:

November 10: Haggai 1:15b-2:9
Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or Psalm 98
OR Job 19:23-27a
Psalm 17:1-9
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
Luke 20:27-38

November 17: Isaiah 65:17-25
Isaiah 12
OR Malachi 4:1-2a
Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Luke 21:5-19



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AMHERST
A Welcoming, Open and Affirming Congregation
of the United Church of Christ



**“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome here.”**

We, the members of the Congregational Church of Amherst, New Hampshire, United Church of Christ, believe God’s Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ call us to love all our neighbors as we would want to be loved. We are called to be as one body, seeking to walk together in the full life and ministry of our church.

We welcome each individual as a child of God. As covenant members of Christ’s church, we celebrate God’s love for people of all races and ethnic backgrounds, all mental and physical abilities, all socioeconomic backgrounds, all sexual orientations, all gender identities and gender expressions, and all of the other diverse attributes woven into the fabric of humankind.

With God’s grace, we invite all to share in the life and leadership, ministry and fellowship, worship and sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of our church.

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us this morning. Our membership is open to all those who choose to walk with us in our witness. **The next new member orientation will be held on November 13.** New members will be formally received on Sunday, November 17. Please speak with any of our deacons or pastors should you have any questions regarding our church or our membership.

Worship Notes:

- **Nursery Care** is provided for children ages two and under at the beginning of worship.
- **Church School** is available for children in Pre-K through grade 7 immediately following Children’s Time.
- **Joys and Concerns** may be written on the cards found in the pew racks. Cards will be collected by one of the pastors during the middle hymn and shared during the Prayers of the People.
- **Nametags** – Please remember to wear your nametag each Sunday, so that we may all greet our neighbors. If you do not have a permanent nametag, temporary nametags may be found inside the friendship registers. If you are in need of a new, permanent nametag, please see one of the deacons.
- **Fellowship** – Please join us in the community room following worship to welcome visitors and friends.
- **Emergencies** – In the event of an emergency, please remain seated until instructions have been given. An emergency plan is in place for the children in the nursery and in the church school.

The church office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Here’s how to reach us: by telephone 673-3231, or by email andrea@ccamherst.org. If we are unavailable by phone, please feel free to leave a message using the personal directory, and we will get back to you as soon as we can. Visit our church’s website at www.ccamherst.org, and follow us on Facebook at Facebook.com/ccamherst.

Grounded in God’s Love—Serving Neighbors Near and Far—Welcoming to All

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church
 Katherine R. Kennedy
 Shayna Appel
 Sara L. Phelps
 Michael Havay
 Colleen Cushing
 Marilyn Gibson
 Heather Stone
 Leona Hendrickson, Nadine Obermiller
 Rebekah Bolin
 Gretchen Davis
 Dave Hagerstrom

Ministers to the World
 Associate Pastor
 Guest Preacher
 Director of Music
 Organist/Accompanist
 Deacon In Charge
 Church School Coordinator
 Nursery Coordinator
 Pre-K/K Church School Teacher
 Grades 1-2 Church School Teacher
 Grades 3-4 Church School Teacher
 Grades 5-7 Church School Teacher

Maureen R. Frescott
 Wendy Valeri

Senior Pastor
 Bell Choir Director

TODAY IS LEVI SUNDAY is November 3.
 Join us after worship our annual fall clean up.
 Many hands make light work!

THE STORY OF GOD: The session scheduled
 for November 6 has been cancelled. Our next
 meeting will be November 20.

NO RUMMAGE YET, PLEASE: We appreciate
 everyone's donations, but due to limited
 storage space, the Woman's Association
 cannot accept any items for the upcoming
 Spring "Good Stuff" Rummage Sale until after
 February 1.

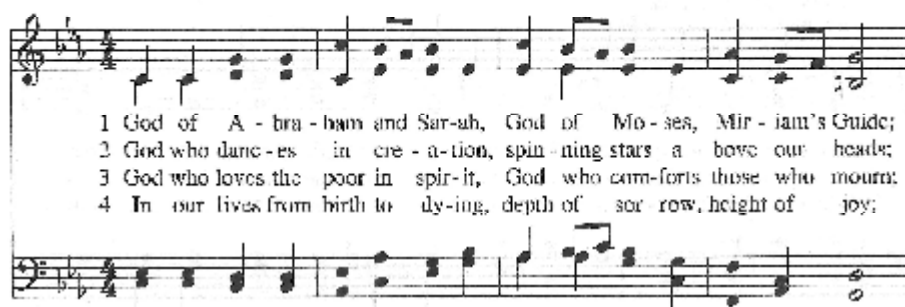
SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for
 November include pancake mix and syrup,
 condiments, cooking sauces and seasonings,
 cooking oils, jelly, and cold cereal. Donations
 can be left in the SHARE cupboard in the
 narthex or in the container by the community
 room entrance. Many thanks for your
 continuing support!

Financial Summary (as of September 30, 2019)

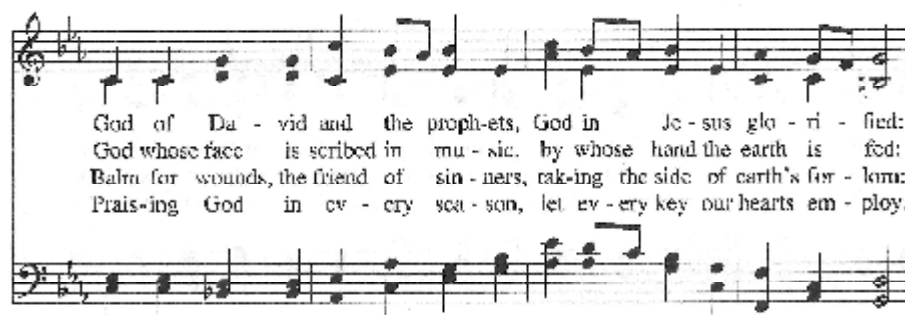
	YTD <u>Budget</u>	YTD <u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$142,799	\$154,227	\$11,428
Expenses	\$136,741	\$125,920	\$10,821
Net Income	\$ 6,058	\$ 28,307	\$22,249

*Numbers have been rounded to the nearest whole
 dollar; as such, some columns may not appear to total
 correctly.*

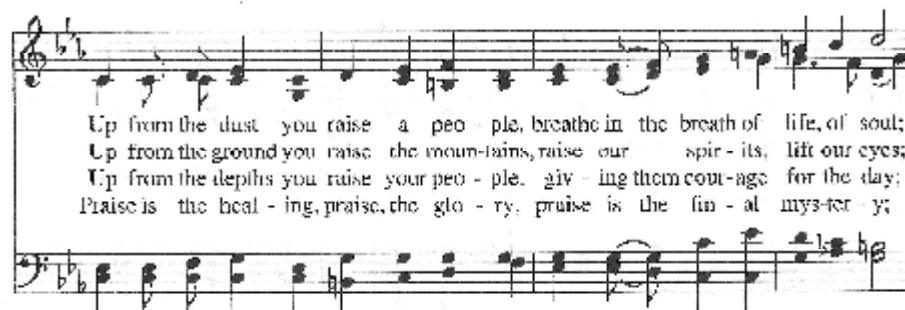
*We hope you are finding this information helpful. If
 you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach
 out to anyone on the Finance Team: Gail Agans (chair),
 Paul Spiess, Doug Topliffe, Todd Whitney and Tim
 Wiegand (Treasurer).*

James Cunningham, 1986; alt


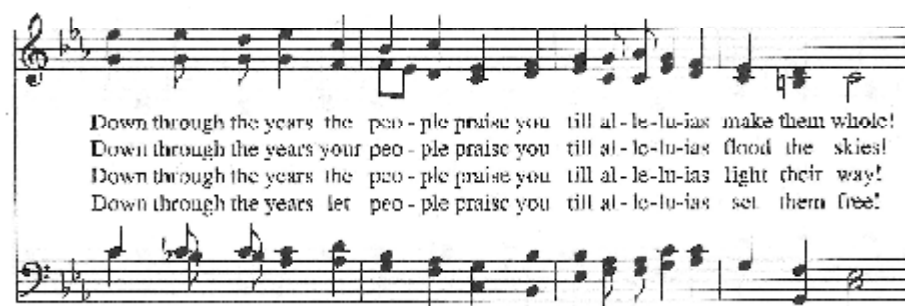
1 God of A - bra - ham and Sar-ah, God of Mo - ses, Mir - iam's Guide;
 2 God who danc - es in cre - a - tion, spin - ning stars a - bove our heads;
 3 God who loves the poor in spir - it, God who com - forts those who mourn;
 4 In our lives from birth to dy - ing, depth of sor - row, height of joy;



God of Da - vid and the proph - ets, God in Je - sus glo - ri - fied:
 God whose face is scribed in mu - sic, by whose hand the earth is fed:
 Balm for wounds, the friend of sin - ners, tak - ing the side of earth's fer - lest;
 Prais - ing God in ev - ery sea - son, let ev - ery key our hearts em - ploy.



Up from the dust you raise a peo - ple, breathe in the breath of life, of soul;
 Up from the ground you raise the moun - tains, raise our spir - its, lift our eyes;
 Up from the depths you raise your peo - ple, giv - ing them cour - age for the day;
 Praise is the heal - ing, praise, the glo - ry, praise is the fin - al mys - ter - y;




Down through the years the peo - ple praise you till al - le - lu - ias make them whole!
 Down through the years your peo - ple praise you till al - le - lu - ias flood the skies!
 Down through the years the peo - ple praise you till al - le - lu - ias light their way!
 Down through the years let peo - ple praise you till al - le - lu - ias set them free!

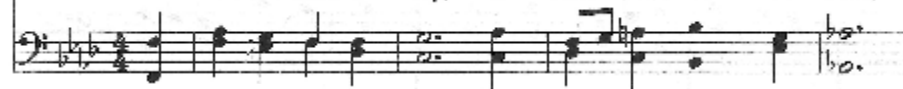

The healing power of praise and the history of God's dealings with humankind are the themes of this hymn, written by a United Church of Christ minister who is the grandson of Armenian immigrants. The tune is named for his father.

Tune: CONSTANTINE 6787D,
 Melody by James Cunningham, 1986
 Hymn: Ronald Huntington, 1989; alt


Shirley Emma Murray, 1995




1 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, who make the Cross your own.
 2 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, look past the church's door
 3 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, through whom the word must sound
 4 When men-ace melts a - way, so shall God's will be done,


live out your creed and risk your life for God a lone;
 and see the ref - u - gee, the hun - gry, and the poor,
 cry out for jus - tice and for peace the whole world 'round;
 the cli - mate of the world be peace and Christ its Sun;




The God who wears your face, to whom all worlds be - long,
 Take hands with the op - pressed, the job - less in your street,
 Dis arm the powers that war and all that can de - stroy,
 Our cur - ren - cy be love and kind - li - ness our law,

whose chil - dren are of ev - ery race and ev - ery song,
 take towel and wa - ter, that you wash your neigh - bor's feet,
 turn bombs to bread, and tears of an - guish in - to joy,
 our food and faith be shared as one for ev - er - more.



Shirley Emma Murray has grown up within the Ecumenical Movement and addresses related themes such as Christian unity and social justice in her hymnody. This text was first sung at the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand.

Tune: LEONI 6684.D.
Traditional Hebrew melody
 Adapt. Meyer Lyon, 1779

Omer Wastendorf, 1964

Descant



2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

Unison



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing, the
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the




tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er



peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave. The ser - vice is
tasks of our ev - ery day life we will face. Our faith ev - er




shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of



end - ed, O now be ex - tend - ed the fruits of our wor - ship in
shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of



Omer Wastendorf, author of numerous hymns, compiler of several hymnals, and founder of World Library Publications, included this hymn in People's Mass Book, 1994, the first vernacular Roman Catholic hymn and service book to implement the directives of Vatican II.

Tune: THE ASH GROVE. 66:1.66.111.
Welsh folk melody
Hymn, Leland Saiters, 1977
Descant, The New Century Hymnal, 1993

each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with
 all who be - lieve. The seed of the teach - ing, re -
 each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with

your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this
 cep - tive hearts reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for
 your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this

life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -
 God and for all. God's grace did in - vite us, and love shall u -
 life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -

giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.
 nite us to work for God's realm and to an - swer the call,
 giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.

Sunday, November 3, 2019

Up A Tree With Zacchaeus

When you carry out acts of kindness you get a wonderful feeling inside. It is as though something in your body responds and says, yes, this is how I ought to feel.

—Rabbi Harold Kushner

One of the scriptures suggested for this morning is the story of Zacchaeus climbing a tree to get a better view of Jesus and then coming down somewhat stunned. He stammered, “Master, I give away half my income to the poor – and if I’m caught cheating, I pay four times the damages.”

The Rev. Kate Huey reflects:

There is the question of our own response to this text. We read through the lens of giving to the church so that we might participate in transforming the world, so we “might bind the world together” through the ministry of our local congregation and the whole United Church of Christ.

There is, finally, the uncomfortable question of our role in the suffering of others because of economic injustice, our failure to share freely, like Zacchaeus. He understands that he can’t just enjoy the benefits of a bad system and not do something about those who suffer from his enjoyment.

Perhaps one answer to the question about Zacchaeus is that he responded whole heartedly to God’s radical grace in his life, just as we are invited to respond to our encounter with Jesus and God’s grace in our lives with free, abundant, faithful generosity, and in so doing, to experience our own lives, and the life of the world, transformed. Like Zacchaeus, we will find nothing is the same any more.

The important question to ask is not, “What do you believe?” but “What difference does it make that you believe?” Does the world come closer to the dream of God because of what you believe?” —Verna J. Dozier