

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



*“As you enter positions of trust and power,  
dream a little before you think.”*

—Toni Morrison

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

January 5, 2020

Epiphany Sunday

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

*Three Kings*

Patricia Lou Harris

INTROIT

Chancel Choir

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather:

**Many: a community of faith in God's world.**

One: We gather to celebrate

**Many: that nothing can extinguish God's light,**

One: to remember

**Many: that love will always be more powerful than death,**

One: and to trust

**Many: that peace will always be stronger than violence.**

One: We gather,

**Many: people of faith in the light of God's world.**

One: Welcome to worship.

\*HYMN

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

No. 66

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

Gracious and all loving God, you call to us across deep waters and shadowy places. Like those followers of wisdom from long ago, we are guided by your light and seek your signs. We pray that you would reveal yourself to us as we worship you. May those without hope be encouraged; those who are sad feel known; those who are seeking, find you; and may all things be according to your will. We ask this in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray: **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

*One Star*  
Chancel Choir

Ed Harris

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14  
Matthew 2:1-12

Page 504  
Page 835

SERMON

"The Power of God"

\*HYMN

*Sing a Different Song*

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

*Winds of a Holy Night*

David Paxton

\*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)

God our Guide, you call us to be your star in the night, your voice in the wilderness, your hope for the hopeless. You give us strength in our weakness, peace and gentleness, words and boldness, to proclaim the Good News of your love. Let these offerings aid us in work such as this. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

ORGAN MEDITATION

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

Richard Storrs Willis/  
Anthony Giamanco

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)

Illuminating God, we have seen the glimmer of your star-light beckoning to us, but we tend to turn away and follow other paths. We confess that we have not always loved you with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength. We have not always loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us, Holy One. Strengthen our faltering steps and guide us in your holy way of peace. 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 showing 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

*Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

No. 411

\*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

Chancel Choir

\*POSTLUDE

*Yuletide Joyeux*

Craig Penfield

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

**Our Church Calendar  
January 5—11, 2020**

Today	10:00 a.m. Worship 11:10 a.m. Fellowship—Community Room 11:15 a.m. Youth Choir—Vestry 11:30 a.m. Small Group Ministry—Youth Room 6:00 p.m. Senior High Youth Group—Youth Room
Monday	10:00 a.m. WA Workshop—Vestry 7:00 p.m. World Service Team—Meeting Room
Tuesday	8:30 a.m. Men's Fellowship—Youth Room 9:00 a.m. Prayerful Playgroup—Nursery 1:30 p.m. Small Group Ministry—Parlor 6:00 p.m. Church Council—Parlor
Wednesday	9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting—offsite 7:00 p.m. Budget and Finance Team—Meeting Room
Thursday	9:00 a.m. Congregational Care—Parlor 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir—Sanctuary 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir—Vestry
Friday and Saturday	Confirmation Class Retreat—offsite



**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. 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 673-6848, or by email [andrea@ccamherst.org](mailto: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](http://www.ccamherst.org), and follow us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/ccamherst](https://www.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

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Peter Labombarde

Marilyn Gibson

Heather Stone

Maureen R. Frescott

Wendy Valeri

Ministers to the World

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon In Charge

Church School Coordinator

Nursery Coordinator

\*\*\*\*\*

Senior Pastor

Bell Choir Director

**WA MONDAY MEETINGS RESUME:** The weekly Monday morning workshops of the Woman's Association will resume on January 6, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the vestry. The workshops are informal meetings at which members and friends of the WA gather to plan events, such as the upcoming Spring Rummage Sale, work on craft projects for the 2020 Holiday Fair, or to just enjoy the fellowship of the group. Those who can stay past noon should bring their own lunch. Coffee, tea and dessert are always provided.

All church and community women are welcome to attend on any Monday. Anyone with questions about the Woman's Association or the workshop can contact Adrienne Topliffe at 673-7436 or [abtopliffe@comcast.net](mailto:abtopliffe@comcast.net).

**STONE SOUP:** The Woman's Association's **Fair Critique and Lunch** will be on Monday, January 13 featuring our traditional Stone Soup. Fair discussion begins at 10:00 a.m. If you helped in any way or have ideas for new items to sell or suggestions for next year, please join us. Contact Carol Lyon ([cml750@comcast.net](mailto:cml750@comcast.net) or 672-0100) to volunteer to bring a soup ingredient or a dessert, or to help.

**YOUTH CHOIR RESUMES TODAY:** Come and sing with us! Grab a snack from coffee hour and meet in the vestry. Questions? Contact Sara Phelps, Director of Music, [kalben1@comcast.net](mailto:kalben1@comcast.net).

**CAT SURVEY RESULTS:** On Sunday, January 12, after worship we're unveiling the results of the CAT Survey our congregation participated in last spring. We had a high participation level and your responses have revealed what drives us, what our top priorities are, and where we'd like to place more energy. Join us!

### *The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:*

January 12: Isaiah 42:1-9  
Psalm 29  
Acts 10:34-43  
Matthew 3:13-17

January 19: Isaiah 49:1-7  
Psalm 40:1-11  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9  
John 1:29-42

# Spaghetti Supper & Variety Show



**Come One! Come All!**

**Saturday, January 25 at 6:00 p.m.  
in the community room**

This year's Annual Spaghetti Dinner & Variety show is your chance to let your God-given gifts SHINE!!

Join us for an evening of food, fellowship, and fabulous entertainment—hosted by the SHYG, with performances by YOU! Singers, musicians, dancers, comedians, jugglers, magicians, yoyo-ers, karate choppers, pie-eaters, hula-hoopers, lip-sync-ers, even especially skillful nose-whistlers— whatever YOUR special skill is, come show your stuff! Adults, youth, and children of all ages are welcome to participate.

If you have an act or a talent that you'd like to share in the variety show, please email Pastor Kate at [pastorkate@ccamherst.org](mailto:pastorkate@ccamherst.org), or talk to me in person any Sunday morning!

All proceeds benefit our Senior High Youth Group's 2020 mission trip to Denver, where we will be serving native communities, people who are homeless and food insecure, and underserved schools with DOOR (Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection).

This is one event you DON'T WANT TO MISS!!

**CHURCH SCHOOL RESUMES TODAY** with "The Wise Men," as we celebrate **The Epiphany**. Teachers are Mrs. Werst, Mrs. Riley, Mr. Hagerstrom and Mrs. Stone. **A reminder**, the classroom for grades 1 and 2 is past the church office, down the hall from grades 5, 6 and 7. Parents must pick up their child/children at the conclusion of worship. **Also, grades Pre-K/K** children are in the nursery as Mrs. Stone is their teacher.

**Our January mission project is for SHARE.** Clients are in need of condiments, such as cooking oil, salad dressing, ketchup, mustard, and mayonnaise. Children are encouraged to donate these items at church school, whereupon they will be delivered to SHARE. If you would like to help, there are receptacles in the narthex and near the community room.

**SHARE FOOD PANTRY** requests for January include canned ham, canned meats, side dishes (seasoned pasta mix, Hamburger Helper, etc.), ravioli and Beef-a-Roni. 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 November 30, 2019)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$203,656	\$198,397	\$ 5,259
Expenses	\$187,670	\$198,862	\$(11,192)
Net Income	\$ 15,986	\$ (465)	\$ 16,450

*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).*



# Jeff Warner

*Songs of Old New Hampshire*

Sunday, Jan. 26, 4:00 PM



Info.  
[ccamherst.org](http://ccamherst.org)

**Congregational Church of Amherst**  
**11 Church St., Amherst, NH**

**FREE**

*Supported by NH Humanities [nhhumanities.org](http://nhhumanities.org)*

Isa. 9:2, 6-7; 42:10-11; Matt. 1:23

The Inna Community, 1987; alt.

Vigorously

D

1 Sing a dif-ferent song now  
2 Shout a dif-ferent shout now  
3 Love a dif-ferent love now  
4 Dance a dif-ferent dance now

(Introduction)

Em7/D D Em7 A7

Christ-mas is here, sing a song of peo-ple know-ing God's  
Christ-mas is here, shout a shout of joy and gen - u - ine  
Christ-mas is here, love with-out con-di-tion, love with - out  
Christ-mas is here, dance a dance of war on suf-fering and

B Em7 A7 D

near: The Mes - si - ah is born in the  
cheer: Fill the earth and the sky with the  
fear: With the hum-ble and poor, with the  
fear: Peace and jus - tice are one, in the

GM7 A7 D Em G D

face of our scorn, sing a dif-ferent song to  
 news from on high, shout a dif-ferent shout that  
 shy and un-sure, love a dif-ferent love. Let  
 light of the sun. Dance a dif-ferent dance. God's

Em7 A7 D 1-3 4 D

wel-come and warn,  
 all may come by.  
 Christ be the cure!  
 reign has be-gun!

*This lively new carol from The Iona Community of Scotland can be accompanied by drums and tambourines to enhance its dance-like quality. The text invites enthusiastic participation in celebrating the Christmas event.*

Tune: DIFFERENT SONG 10.10.6.6.10.  
 John L. Bell, 1987

*Sunday, January 5, 2020*

## ***The Choice Is Ours***

Janus, the Roman god of doorways, looked backwards at the old and forward into a new year. So do we. Probably every people has. So much of our looking ahead is spawned by our actions and words spoken just a few weeks ago.

Words...Words...Words. Their uses for better or worse are not new. Matthew had some words to say about words:

“If you grow a healthy tree, you’ll pick healthy fruit. If you grow a diseased tree you’ll pick worm-eaten fruit. The fruit tells you about the tree. You have minds like a snake pit! How do you suppose what you say is worth anything when you are so foul-mouthed. It’s your heart, not the dictionary, that gives meaning to your words. Every one of these careless words is going to come back to haunt you. Words can be your salvation. Words can also be your damnation.”

UCC minister, The Rev. Phiwa Langeni, writes in the UCC publication ***New Earth:***

“Oh, how I wish Matthew’s wisdom could have been more readily available to us, as children and even now as adults. If we really grasped how very powerful words are to our very existence—so powerful they can literally preserve or eliminate lives – we would have to reconsider almost everything we know.

“In place of political correctness, we can respect people and the language they use to refer to themselves (instead of language that erodes respect). Instead of tweets, status updates, and word-slinging comments, we can rehumanize the digital distance between our keyboards and people’s screens on the other end.

**“Give us wisdom to choose words that more powerfully  
reflect Love and Life. Amen.”**

BBB