

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



“And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’”

—Matthew 3:16-17

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

January 12, 2020

The Baptism of Christ—
First Sunday after Epiphany

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

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

Christoph David Cherwien

INTROIT

Chancel Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The heavens open. The Spirit descends.

Many: **Jesus emerges from the water.**

One: And a voice echoes through the blue expanse.

Many: **"This is my child, the Beloved, with whom I am well-pleased."**

One: Jesus is named. Jesus is claimed.

Many: **We come to remember that we too are named and claimed.**

One: Can it be so? What a blessing to be known and to belong.

All: **Let us worship the one who names and claims us still.**

*HYMN

When the Morning Stars Together
verses 1, 2 & 4 only

No. 486

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

God of water and wind, music and word, you call us with your voice and your Spirit to be your people, faithful and courageous. As your beloved child, Jesus, embraced his mission in the waters of baptism, inspire us to walk in his wake and join in his transforming work. Send your Holy Spirit once more to us this morning, to energize our worship and enliven our witness to the world. We ask this in the name of our brother, Jesus, who taught us to pray saying: **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

At The River
Chancel Choir

arr. Aaron Copland

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 42:1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
I am the Lord, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

SERMON

"The Spirit is Upon Us"

*HYMN

Spirit
verses 1, 2 & 3 only

No. 319

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

Behold, My Beloved Son

Ronald Besemer

*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 give you thanks, O God, for alighting your Spirit upon us. May our offerings honor you. May our lives reflect your mercy. May our hands bestow on others the blessings we have received. May our prayers unite us with one another and with Christ, in whose name we celebrate the privilege of giving. Amen.

*HYMN

Live Into Hope

No. 332

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Chancel Choir

*POSTLUDE

Alleluia! Amen!

David Lasky

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



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. 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](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
 Maureen R. Frescott
 Katherine R. Kennedy
 Sara L. Phelps
 Michael Havay
 Peter Labombarde
 Roger and Sally Hooper
 Marti Warren
 Marilyn Gibson
 Heather Stone
 Shannon Gascoyne
 Rebekah Bolin
 Gretchen Davis
 Dave Hagerstrom
 Chris and Gretchen Pyles
 Wendy Valeri

Ministers to the World
 Senior Pastor
 Associate Pastor
 Director of Music
 Organist/Accompanist
 Deacon In Charge
 Ushers
 Liturgist
 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
 Fellowship Hosts
 Bell Choir Director

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given by Mary Howe, with blessings on the ministry of the Congregational Church of Amherst.

CAT SURVEY RESULTS TODAY: Join us in the community room after worship when we will unveil 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.

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 or 672-0100) to volunteer to bring a soup ingredient or a dessert, or to help.

THE YOUTH CHOIR will rehearse in the vestry after worship. Come sing with us! Questions? Contact Sara Phelps, Director of Music, kalben1@comcast.net.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS NEEDED: Members of the Fellowship Team are happy offer guidance or assist you in making coffee. Sign up sheets are in the kitchen, or talk with any member of the Fellowship Team.

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:

January 19:	Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42
January 26:	Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1, 4-9 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23

CHURCH SCHOOL: Our lesson today is Jesus' Baptism (Mark 1:4-11). "As soon as Jesus came up out of the water, he saw heaven opening and the Spirit coming down on him like a dove." (*Good News Bible*) We become part of God's family through baptism.

The Christian Education meeting for today has been postponed to January 26, due to the CAT survey presentation.

Our January mission project is for SHARE. Clients are always in need of condiments, such as cooking oil, salad dressing, ketchup, mustard, and mayonnaise. Donations can be left in the narthex and in the church office.

Our Church Calendar January 12—18, 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. CAT Survey Results— Community Room 6:00 p.m. Senior High Youth Group— Youth Room
Monday	10:00 a.m. WA Fair Critique and Stone Soup Luncheon—Vestry
Tuesday	8:30 a.m. Men's Fellowship— Youth Room 9:30 a.m. WA Board Meeting—Vestry 5:30 p.m. Community Supper— SHARE Center, Milford 7:00 p.m. Tuesday Team Time
Wednesday	10:00 a.m. The Story of God—Parlor 4:00 p.m. Communications Team— Parlor
Thursday	1:00 p.m. Prayerful Playgroup— Nursery 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class— Youth Room 6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir—Sanctuary 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir—Vestry

Spaghetti Supper & Variety Show



Come One! Come All!

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

Join us for an evening of food, fellowship, and fabulous entertainment—hosted by the SHYG, with performances by YOU! 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, 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).

SOS—REFRESHMENTS NEEDED for the *Songs of Old NH* program on January 26. We need cookies, bars, chips, nuts, etc. Please label and leave on the designated kitchen counter that morning, or drop off before the concert. Contact Anne Krantz at 673-9684 or annekrantz@comcast.net if you can help with set up or clean up. All are welcome to come enjoy the fabulous folk music program by Jeff Warner, sponsored by NH Humanities.

Sunday, January 12, 2020

O For a Church

O for a church with open doors that's been so long our dream, where faith and hope, and care for all show the love of Christ supreme! With prayer and trust, the time has come to make our vision plain. God grant us strength and energy and we shall our goal attain. Then all who come may enter in, no barriers they'll find where young and old, the weak, the strong, may all join with hearts and mind. O God of love, O Christ of peace, the Holy Spirit's power: Break down the walls, unite us all making this a shining hour. Throughout the coming years, O God, keep your vision always clear, that we may ever serve you well, and live your way with cheer.

—Rev. Ann N. Graves

