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

*"We do not draw people to Christ by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it."*

—Madeleine L'Engle

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

January 19, 2020 Second 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 *This is the Day the Lord Hath Made* Anthony Giamanco

INTROIT Chancel Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP
One: In the bleak mid-winter we open our ears:
Many: To the One who warms us with stories of love and hope.
One: In the stillness of a snowfall, we open our eyes:
Many: To the One who clears a path so we may follow in faith.
One: In the shadows of life, we open our hearts:
Many: To the One who lights the way through the world.
One: We come together in God's presence seeking the Lamb of God,
All: As the Spirit descends upon us, we lift up our voices in praise!

*HYMN *For the Beauty of the Earth* No. 473
verses 1, 2, 3 & 4 only

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)
Calling God, through the words of the prophets you have shown us the world of your dreaming and longing: A world built on justice, overflowing with plenty, and crowned with joy. And through Jesus you have shown us how such a world might come to be. Help us to hold and grow into your vision for us; and, like Jesus, may we always be ready to live generously, love expansively, speak boldly and act courageously, that the world of your dreaming may become the present reality. We ask this in the name of 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 *In the Bleak Midwinter*
Bell Choir

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON John 1:29-42

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

SERMON "Come and See"

*HYMN *Be Thou My Vision* No. 339

*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 — *Precious Lord* — Roy Ringwald
Chancel Choir

*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, Faithful God, for the grace poured out on us in Jesus. We are grateful for spiritual and material gifts that equip us to live abundantly. May we, through these offerings, share in your wondrous deeds and announce to the world your loving and giving presence. May your voice be heard in every heart, through our acts of love and generosity. Amen.

*HYMN — *Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak* — No. 426
verses 1, 2, 3 & 4 only

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE — Chancel Choir

*POSTLUDE — *With Open Hearts* — Lynn Trapp

(*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.

*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 | Ministers to the World |
| Maureen R. Frescott | Senior Pastor |
| Katherine R. Kennedy | Associate Pastor |
| Sara L. Phelps | Director of Music |
| Michael Havay | Organist/Accompanist |
| Wendy Valeri | Bell Choir Director |
| Peter Labombarde | Deacon In Charge |
| Dave Phelps | Liturgist |
| Marilyn Gibson | Church School Coordinator |
| Heather Stone | Nursery Coordinator |
| Marianne Stone | Pre-K/K Church School Teacher |
| Sue Werst | Grades 1-2 Church School Teacher |
| Larissa Riley | Grades 3-4 Church School Teacher |
| Dave Hagerstrom | Grades 5-7 Church School Teacher |

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 to offer guidance or assist you in making coffee. Sign up sheets are in the kitchen, or talk with any member of the Fellowship Team.

BEWARE OF FALLING SNOW AND ICE: It is that time of year again when we remind everyone that snow and ice may fall from our roof at any time. Please use caution when in our driveway, and do not walk too close to the building.

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!

SUCCESS FOR SALE: The SUCCESS program continues in 2020, after earning over $14,000 for the church so far. Cards will be available for purchase or can be ordered after church on January 26. Make this your year to participate! Come down to the community room and see what it's all about.

CHURCH SCHOOL: Today's lesson is *Jesus Goes to Nazareth*. (Luke 4:14-30) *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. (Luke 4:18a)* Jesus was sharing the message that God's love is for all people. They became angry with Jesus because not everyone believed that message. Our teachers today are Marianne Stone with Pre-K/K in the nursery, Mrs. Werst with grades 1 and 2, Mrs. Riley with grades 3 and 4, and Mr. Hagerstrom with grades 5, 6 and 7.

Our mission project for January is for the SHARE Food Pantry. Condiments are most in need, so the children are asked to bring in items such as cooking oils, salad dressings, mayonnaise, mustard and ketchup. Donations can be placed in the receptacles located in the narthex and the church office.

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.

TRAVEL TOILETRIES! Do you travel a lot? Do you have mini toiletries hanging about your house? The World Service team is enlisting your help to collect mini toiletry products. These will be given to foster children going into foster care, moving foster care homes, attending college, etc. We have included a collection box in the hallway next to the community room. This will be an ongoing project so your help is greatly appreciated!

## Our Church Calendar
January 19—25, 2020

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|---|---|---|
| Today | 10:00 a.m. | Worship |
| | 11:10 a.m. | Fellowship—Community Room |
| | 11:15 a.m. | Youth Choir—Vestry |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Senior High Youth Group—Youth Room |
| Monday | 10:00 a.m. | WA Workshop—Vestry |
| Tuesday | 8:30 a.m. | Men's Fellowship—Youth Room |
| Wednesday | 9:00 a.m. | Staff Meeting—Parlor |
| | 1:30 p.m. | Gifted Ladies—Parlor |
| Thursday | 6:00 p.m. | Bell Choir—Sanctuary |
| | 7:30 p.m. | Chancel Choir—Vestry |
| Saturday | 6:00 p.m. | SHYG Spaghetti Dinner and Variety Show—Community Room |

## 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).

NEW HABITAT BUILD DAY! We have had such great success with our past build days with the Habitat for Humanity building project in Wilton. Work has moved to inside and we will once again be participating in a build day on Saturday, February 8. If you are interested in this hands-on outreach project, please touch base with Dave Phelps (kalben2@comcast.net), Dave Poltack (dpoltack@comcast.net), or Nancy Protzmann (uvmcats84@gmail.com). For more information, visit the Habitat section on our Service Opportunities page of the website (https://www.ccamherst.org/service-opportunites/)

*Sunday, January 19, 2020*

# *Making Them One*

Today congregations celebrate and pray for Christian church unity – ecumenism. The Rev. Holly Lewerenz writes:

Whenever anyone brings up the subject of "church unity," you hear moans, grumbles, or downright anger and fear…

- "They are wrong, the Bible clearly supports my interpretation of that Scripture verse."
- "My church has believed this way for a hundred years – we're not going to change now!"
- "Nope, I'll never go along with THOSE people."

I'm not talking here about agreeing with other religions…I'm not even saying you have to give up your pet doctrine… or say or do things exactly the way other believers do…BUT, I am saying that Jesus has called us to put aside our criticism and nasty attacks against other parts of the body of Christ – and love one another.

We love because He first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.

Jesus prayed, "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one…" Jesus does not categorize his followers by denomination or doctrine. He expects us to imitate His example and love one another! Jesus prayed, "Make them as one as We are One."

BBB

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
a just world for all