

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



*"I wish I could show you, when you are lonely or in darkness,
the astonishing Light of your own Being."*

— Hafez, 14th century Persian poet

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

March 15, 2020

Third Sunday in Lent

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

Encounter at Jacob's Well

Rex Koury

INTROIT

Chancel Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Jesus calls us to the well,

Many: inviting us to drink of the Living Water, and the life eternal.

One: Jesus calls us out of the shadows,

Many: to be entirely known, and entirely filled with God's presence.

One: Jesus calls us all:

**Many: all who were made in God's own image,
all who breathe the breath of God's spirit.**

One: Jesus calls us to serve,

Many: to feed the hungry and give water to the thirsty.

One: Jesus calls us, here and now.

Many: Come, let us respond to Jesus' call and let us worship together!

*HYMN

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

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

Everlasting God, you are everywhere and right here. As close as the air we breathe; the air which binds us one to another and to your beautiful creation. You are as close as the sunlight on our skin, as close as the rain that falls on our head; as close as the wind that pushes us and lifts us up. You call us again and again into relationship with one another and with you. Divine Spirit, guide and encourage us. Stir within our hearts, that we may speak anew the familiar words that Jesus taught us: **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.**

LENTEN LITANY OF CONFESSION

One: God of living water,

Many: we confess the dryness of our lives:

One: the brittle words we have thought and spoken...

Many: the arid perspective that centers on self...

One: the relationships that are crumbling...

Many: the cracked and jagged edges of our world.

One: Hear our confession, O Christ, in our words and in our hearts...

Many: and rain down your mercy upon us.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*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.

YOUTH CHOIR

Two by Two

Mary Donnelly and
George Strid

CHILDREN'S TIME

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

And He Never Said a Word
Bell Choir

Michael Ryan

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 4:5-42

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SERMON

"The Well is Deep"

*HYMN

Just as I Am

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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

What Wondrous Love
Chancel Choir

Charles Dupree

*DOXOLOGY (Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH, No. 592)

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

All that we present to you now, O God, we have received from your hand. We give so the hungry may eat and the thirsty may receive pure water. We share to send the good news of your love to those who are in need of hearing it. We invest in just causes, that your mercy may be known among all people. We give because passing on your gifts is what makes us happy, and whole, and renewed. Amen.

*HYMN

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

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*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Chancel Choir

*POSTLUDE

Gothic Minuet on "Kingsfold"
(I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say)

Ralph Vaughan Williams/
Matthew Walicke

(*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. **The next new member information will be held March 18.** New members will be formally received on Sunday, March 22. 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
Wendy Valeri
John Swanson
Danielle Jones, Carol Lyon, Avis Moller, Sue Stout
Sally Bowkett, Kay Steeves, Jean Tonnesen, Adrienne Topliffe
Carol St. Jean
Marilyn Gibson
Heather Stone
Leona Hendrickson
Rebekah Bolin
Gretchen Davis
Dave Hagerstrom
Woman's Association

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor
Director of Music
Organist/Accompanist
Bell Choir Director
Deacon In Charge
Greeters
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

TIME TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS:

Donate a plant in memory of a loved one or in celebration of Easter. Your name and those you wish to remember will be printed in the bulletin. After the Easter services you may keep your plant or donate it to someone in need of some cheer. Orders will be taken in the community room after worship today. Or you may place your order with Andrea in the church office. Contact Anne Krantz at 673-9684 for more information.

SPRING SUCCESS: Why not use a Home Depot or Lowe's SUCCESS card to get your garden needs this spring? Or a Dunkin Donuts, Panera, or Starbuck's card for your coffee run? SUCCESS cards are great in Easter baskets for older kids, too. Stop by the Community Room after church to see what cards are available immediately, or to place an order. Shop with SUCCESS!

NOTE ABOUT TODAY'S PRELUDE: Rex Koury was born in England in 1911 but lived almost all his life in America. He was a theater organist who scored and played for many silent films including the 1927 version of "King of Kings." The theme of today's prelude is from that film score. Koury moved to Hollywood in the 1930s where he served as music director for several studios. His most famous work is the theme to the radio and TV series "Gunsmoke."

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:

March 22:	1 Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41
March 29:	Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45

CHURCH SCHOOL: Today's lesson is "The Parable of the Fig Tree." Jesus reminds us that we should use every day wisely. Each day is a gift that God gives to us so our faith can grow. Our teachers today are Leona Hendrickson, Rebekah Bolin, Gretchen Davis and Dave Hagerstrom.

Lenten activities for church school children and their families are available in the community room during fellowship today. Please take one or both to travel the path to Easter.

The Christian Ed team will meet today at 11:30 a.m. in the youth room on the third floor. All are welcome.

CHURCH INFO SESSION: Anyone interested in becoming a member, thinking about becoming a member, or even just curious about membership in our church, is cordially invited to attend the upcoming informational session on Wednesday, **March 18** at 7:00 p.m. in the parlor. New members will be formally received on Sunday, March 22. For more information or to sign up for the session, please contact Andrea in the church office at andrea@ccamherst.org or 673-3231. Also, feel free to talk with either pastor or any deacon (green name tag folks). We look forward to hearing from you.

CCA WEBSITE: The new security is in place for our "Members" section of the website. This private area includes our church directory, sensitive church documents, and will soon include a way to submit and view prayer requests. The new security to this private area requires you to have a user ID and password. To request access, please go to our website and click on the "Members" menu option, and then click on "Request User Account" and fill out the form—or you can email Nancy Protzmann directly at uvmcvats84@gmail.com.

MIDDLE HIGH YOUTH GROUP meets on **March 18**. All students in grades 5, 6 and 7 are welcome to join us the third Wednesday of the month from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. for fun, fellowship and service. For more information, please contact Pastor Kate.

MARCH UCC APPEAL: What is One Great Hour of Sharing? Through One Great Hour of Sharing, lives are literally changed daily. Your support provides clean water, food, medicines, shelter, healthcare, education and so much more. One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM), is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. To read stories about how OGHS funds are used, please visit https://www.ucc.org/oghs_stories

Financial Summary
(as of February 29, 2020)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$309,508	\$289,793	\$19,715
Expenses	\$294,626	\$297,216	\$(2,590)
Net Income	\$ 14,882	\$(7,423)	\$22,305

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).

THE LENTEN SOUP AND SUPPER SERIES continues on Wednesdays, March 25 and April 1. Join us in the parlor for delicious soup and engaging discussion based on the book *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans. We'll gather at 6:30 p.m. for a light supper of soup and bread and the discussion will run from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Pastor Maureen and Pastor Kate will alternate as facilitators of the sessions. The **March 25 session will focus on the fifth and sixth chapters** of the book. Even if you haven't read the book, all are welcome to participate in the meal and discussion!

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for March 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!

SAVE THE DATE! The Sleep in Heavenly Peace bunk bed build date will be on Saturday, May 9. Times to be determined, but we are planning for 10:00 a.m. to noon. Please let us know if you are interested! Contact Nancy Protzmann, Terri Behm or Susan Holden.

I HAVE ALREADY GIVEN cards indicating that you give monthly or on-line are available for placing in the collection plate during the offering. These cards will be available each week in baskets outside the center sanctuary doors. We hope that they will provide you with a meaningful way of taking part in the service offering and a comfortable reminder and symbol of your generous act of giving.

CALLING ALL COOKIE BAKERS: On April 5 the Senior High Youth Group will host it's annual cookie walk. All cookie donations are welcome and extremely appreciated! Contact Pastor Kate for more information.

GIFTED LADIES: Out of an abundance of caution, the Gifted Ladies group has decided to cancel the rest of their monthly meetings this spring.

ANNUAL REPORTS: A reminder to all church officers and team chairs that annual reports are due in to the church office by April 15.

Our Church Calendar March 15—21, 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. Christian Ed—Youth Room 6:00 p.m. Senior High Youth— 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 6:00 p.m. Middle High Youth Group— Youth Room 7:00 p.m. Church Info Session— Parlor
Thursday	1:00 p.m. Prayerful Playgroup— Nursery 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class— Youth Room 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir—Sanctuary 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir—Vestry

Sunday, March 15, 2020

“For it is in giving, that we receive.”

—Francis of Assisi

The Woman’s Association has been a part of the church and community since 1865. The spring and fall rummage sales and the Holiday Fair have been the sources of income for our merry band of women for over 60 years. You, the congregation, play an important role helping to raise these funds and we couldn’t do it without you. You generously gave us your time, talent, treasures and rummage resulting in a very successful year!

Your help allowed us to make the following contributions for 2019:

Holiday Toy Store	\$300
Camp Allen	\$200
SHARE	\$200
Bridges	\$200
Anne Marie House	\$200
Souhegan Valley Transport (Blue Bus)	\$200
Heifer International	\$200
New Hampshire Food Bank	\$200
2019 CCA Pledge	\$12,000
Capital Campaign Pledge	\$2,000
SHYG Mission Trip	\$300
Pew Bibles	\$280
Kitchen Supplies	\$100

Thank you so much!