

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



*“We humans have lost the wisdom of genuinely resting and relaxing.  
We worry too much. We don't allow our bodies to heal,  
and we don't allow our minds and hearts to heal.”*

—Thich Nhat Hanh

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

March 22, 2020

Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Day by day, God leads us:

**Many: to the deep, deep pools of peace,  
to the green, lush lawns of grace.**

One: Day by day, Jesus calls us:

**Many: to pour out ourselves in service,  
to anoint the stranger with hope.**

One: Day by day, the Spirit shows us:

**Many: the community we could be,  
the family we are called to become.**

One: Day by Day, near and far, let us all be in a spirit of worship.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER

Holy God, we have not traveled very far to come to worship this morning. And yet, we feel blessed to be gathered, one spirit in Christ. Be with us, Divine Creator. Be with us wherever we are— in our sanctuary, in our living rooms, in our office nooks and kitchen islands and big comfy chairs. Open our minds to see your presence among us, moving in powerful ways at all times and in all places. Open our hearts to hear familiar words in new ways—ways that will change us, challenge us, and comfort us. Grant us the power and courage to sit in the dark places with you, the one who shows us the way in hard times. We ask all 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.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff-- they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

MEDITATION

"A Song of Trust"

SPECIAL MUSIC

*What Wondrous Love*  
Sara Phelps, soprano  
Michael Havay, piano

Charles Dupree

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

**PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church

Maureen R. Frescott

Katherine R. Kennedy

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

*Sunday, March 22, 2019*

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

**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](https://www.ucc.org/oghs_stories)

**FRIENDSHIP BASKETS:** On behalf of the congregation, your Diaconate is still hoping to support families in our community who need a little help, now more than ever. We will be reaching out to local families with grocery gift cards to allow them to shop for their Easter dinner. We will be unable to pass our Friendship Baskets as planned for the March 29 Sunday service, and may be at risk for collections at all, if we are unable to safely resume services by April 5. If we resume services, we will pass the Friendship baskets on April 5. In the meantime, if you are comfortable in doing so, please consider making a donation online through the church website, noting it as a "Special Offering" under the category of "Other," and mentioning Friendship Baskets. As always, direct donations may be mailed to the church. Thank you very much for your generosity as we continue our mission through these challenging times!

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

March 29:	Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45
April 5: Liturgy of the Palms	Psalm 118:1-2,19-29 Matthew 21:1-11
Liturgy of the Passion	Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 26:14-27:66 OR Matthew 27:11-54

**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).*