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

"Our God has written the promise of resurrection,
not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."

—Martin Luther

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

April 26, 2020 Third Sunday of Easter 10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE *The Strife is O'er* arr. Hal Hopson

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Easter is not an event that has occurred.
Many: Easter is an adventure that has begun, full of wild hope and potent potential.
One: Easter is not a place we have visited.
Many: Easter is a path on which we stand, a story still unfolding, teeming with the promise of new life.
One: God meets us on that path.
Many: The path between despair and hope, were pain becomes joy and death becomes resurrection.
All: Let us walk this path of Easter together. Heart to heart, story by story, finding new life here in our worship.

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

We need your presence on the long road, Lord. The road between fear and hope, the road between the place where all is lost and the place of resurrection. Like the disciples walking the road to Emmaus, we are in need of your company! Jesus, stand among us, in your risen power, let this time of worship, be a hallowed hour. Hear us as we pray the words that you 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.

CHILDREN'S TIME

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk

along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

SERMON "The Inbreaking Jesus"

ANTHEM *Brother James' Air* Gordon Jacob
Chancel Choir

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)
Loving God, take what we give and make it meaningful. Take what we do and make it merciful. Take our intentions and make us more faithful. Take all of what we are and how we live and make it a resplendent reflection of your love for the world. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE *Easter Postlude on "Handel"* Janet Correll

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.

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 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

Our Church Calendar

April 26—May 2, 2020

Today	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	10:40 a.m.	Fellowship—Zoom
	6:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group—Zoom
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop—Zoom
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Men's Fellowship—Zoom
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting—Zoom
Thursday	1:30 p.m.	Prayerful Playgroup—Zoom
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir—Zoom

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

JOIN US FOR VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR after worship this morning on Zoom. The link is on our website. Stay for just a few minutes to check-in, or stay for the whole hour to catch up with old and new friends. The coffee will be virtual, but the conversation and connection will be real.

CHURCH SCHOOL IS ON ZOOM each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. It is attended by many as it nourishes faith formation. Breakfast and *dress up* is optional, and parents are welcomed too!

This week's lesson, *The Road to Emmaus* (Luke 24:13-35) allows youngsters to read about Cleopas and a friend, who while traveling encounter a stranger, not knowing it is Jesus. How are children able to relate the story? Children find Jesus, in their daily lives in so many ways. As adults, how do we see Jesus in our lives; hence, how can adults share this with children?

An Invitation: The opportunity presents itself for children to share their artwork, colored in pages as well, through church school. Children created bulletin covers, so it is now being extended to a gallery. Send your child's/ children's creative pieces to mgibson@ccamherst.org for posting. Questions can be sent to the same address.

FAITH PROMISE: Our new fiscal year Stewardship Campaign is ongoing during the Covid-19 church building closure. As of Friday, April 24, we have received pledges from 59 families, totaling $174,071. Thanks to all that have responded so far. To those who are still considering your pledge, you can email your intents to Andrea at andrea@ccamherst.org, mail in your pledge intentions, call Andrea (673 -3231) or go to the church website https:// www.ccamherst.org/stewardship-pledge/.

STAYING UP TO DATE WITH YOUR PLEDGE is as important as ever these days. Although we have been holding online services and practicing social distancing for the protection of all, our mission work and church operating expenses continue as usual and need your continued financial support. Checks can be mailed to the church office at 11 Church St., or visit our website for electronic giving. Thanks in advance for your continued generosity.

Portions of today's liturgy are adapted from prayers written by Carol Penner, and posted on Leading in Worship.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-731944.