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

"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."

—Mother Teresa

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

May 3, 2020 | Fourth Sunday of Easter
Faith Promise Sunday | 10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP and PRAYER OF INVOCATION

One: God gives us all that we have,
Many: Life, love, grace, hope.
One: God gives us all that we can see,
Many: Trees, mountains, oceans, all the creatures of the earth.
One: God gives us all that we treasure,
Many: Family, friends, and time to be with those we love.
One: God gives us all that we need,
Many: Food, shelter, clothing, and the things that bring us joy.
One: God gives us the opportunity to share all that has been given to us.
Many: We give back to God by giving to others.
One: We give back to God by giving of ourselves.
Many: We give back to God with gratitude and with joy!
All: Always giving God, we welcome your Spirit as we gather here in your name.
Be with us as we lift our voices up in gratitude and praise!

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

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 Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

SERMON "Generous Hearts"

ANTHEM *Deep River* Victor C. Johnson
Chancel Choir (Choristers Guild)

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

FAITH PROMISE LITANY OF DEDICATION

One: Creator of all, the earth is yours,
the world and all who live in it.
All: You have entrusted us with your gifts
and asked us to use them to build your kingdom.
With thanks and praise we respond to your call.
One: We bring these gifts you have given,
returning your generosity, paying it forward.
All: We offer ourselves, our lives, our hopes and fears,
our dollars and our hours.
We commit ourselves to work for your world,
to love and serve wherever you call.
One: We ask your blessing on this, your church,
as we seek to follow you with our heart, mind, and soul.
All: Bless also these gifts, our investment in your future,
that they may multiply in faith, hope, and love.
Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BREAKING OF THE BREAD, POURING OF THE CUP

CONSECRATING PRAYER

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison)
We give thanks, O God, because in your own free gift of love you have reached out to us. You have refreshed us at your table, touched our deepest needs, and called us to a shared memory and hope. Send us forth with courage and joy in the name of Jesus Christ, that we, too, might become bread and life for one another and the world. Amen.

BENEDICTION

One: The Spirit of God is upon us
and has anointed each of us to bring our gifts to the world.

Many: We are not too young or too old,
to bring good news,
to give a helping hand,
to share abundantly,
through the gifts we have been given.

One: The God in whose image we are made
will walk with us and guide us today, tomorrow, and every day.
Amen.

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

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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 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

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.

FAITH PROMISE: Our new fiscal year Stewardship Campaign is ongoing during the Covid-19 church building closure. As of Friday, May 1, we have received pledges from 71 families, totaling $206,991. 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/.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for May include canned ham, canned meats, side dishes (seasoned pasta mix, Hamburger Helper, etc.), ravioli and Beef-a-Roni, refried beans, and condiments. Donations should be brought directly to the SHARE Center in Milford; if you are unsure where, please call their office at 673-9898. Many thanks for your continuing support!

CHURCH SCHOOL: This week's lesson is *Early Believers* (Acts 2:43-47, 4:32-37). Jesus asked the disciples to follow Him. He spoke of fellowship, emphasizing caring for others and generosity. His disciples chose to give what was theirs to others.

Faith formation of our children begins with reading the words and learning of the actions of Jesus and his disciples. Children must be given the opportunities to engage—engagement at home, in the community, and in our world. Faith Formation Sunday, today, is that opportunity. The "Family Page," sent to children and families, gives suggestions for families to do together as part of faith formation. Caring for others, might also be emailing a member of the church whom children have not seen in quite a while, with words of hope and joy.

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:

May 10:	Acts 7:55-60
	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
	1 Peter 2:2-10
	John 14:1-14
May 17:	Acts 17:22-31
	Psalm 66:8-20
	1 Peter 3:13-22
	John 14:15-21

Join us for

Church School on Zoom

Every Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

Parents are welcomed too!

The Zoom links were sent out in an email to parents. If you need it, contact Marilyn Gibson: mgibson@ccamherst.org.

CCA WEBSITE: We want to make sure everyone is aware of the MEMBERS section of our church's website. The security to this private area requires you to set up an account with a user ID and password. To request an account, please go to our website (ccamherst.org) and click on the MEMBERS menu option, and then click on 'Request User Account' and fill out the form. If you prefer, you can also email Nancy Protzmann directly at uvmcats84@gmail.com

This private area includes the current church directory and form to update contact information, sensitive church financial documents, past annual reports and annual meeting presentations, monthly Council minutes, general policy documents, a form to submit and view prayer requests, and photo galleries .

Our Church Calendar

May 3—9, 2020

Today	9:00 a.m.	Church School—Zoom
	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 Fellowship—Zoom
		World Service Team—Zoom
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Men's Fellowship—Zoom
	6:00 p.m.	Church Council—Zoom
Thursday	1:30 p.m.	Prayerful Playgroup—Zoom
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Fellowship—Zoom

Financial Summary

(as of March 31, 2020)

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference
Income	$334,836	$317,592	$17,244
Expenses	$327,535	$329,466	$(1,931)
Net Income	$ 7,301	$(11,873)	$19,174

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).

Sunday, May 3, 2020