

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



“When Jesus let go of his last breath it hovered in the air in front of him for a moment and then it was set loose on the earth. It grew until it was a mighty wind, which God sent spinning through an upper room in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost.”

—Barbara Brown Taylor

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

May 31, 2020

Pentecost Sunday

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

Veni Creator Spiritus

Robert Lau
(Lorenz Publishing Co.)

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP

With the wind at our backs,
Waving palms in the air,
We entered Jerusalem with Jesus.
And a few days later
We watched him die right before our eyes.

It spiraled so quickly.
Trial. Suffering. Death. Grief.

But on the third day
The breath of God blew new life into our future.
With the women and the disciples,
We spent forty days with the risen Christ.

Before he ascended,
Jesus reminded us that the Spirit will come.
It was on the Day of Pentecost.
When the wind blew
The Spirit of God
Into each and every one of us.

God's Sacred Breath,
Moved through our world
Breathing into us
God's hopes and dreams
For a world filled with justice, love, and peace.

Let us pray:

Spirit of gentleness, we invite you to move, swirl, and breath into us now. Remind us that you are always present: encouraging, comforting, and inspiring us to be the loving people you created us to be. Stir us during this hour to walk humbly with you, to embrace your love, to do justice in our unjust and fragmented world, to birth the church into being, all over again.

May God's sacred presence fill this place, as we pray the words that Jesus taught us:

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 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power."

All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these people are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall

dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

SERMON

"Happy Birthday, Church!"

ANTHEM

Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove

Sara Phelps, soprano

Michael Havay, piano

Joe Cox and Jody Lindh

(The Sacred Music Press)

Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly dove,
With all your quickening powers.
Kindle a flame of sacred love
In these cold hearts of ours.

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Holy One, you have given yourself to us in Creator, in Christ, in Spirit. We now give back to you. Receive what we offer and transform it by the power of your Spirit into a means of spreading your peace, justice, and love in the world. May many lives be touched by this offering, and may we see the signs of your presence birthed all around us, so that we may be inspired to follow you all the days of our lives. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

David Kidwell

(Timespann Music)



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 info@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](https://www.facebook.com/ccamherst).

Grounded in God’s Love—Serving Neighbors Near and Far—Welcoming to All

*Portions of the liturgy have been adapted from Tim Graves,
LiturgyBits. <https://liturgybits.wordpress.com>*

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

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

CHURCH SCHOOL: Today's lesson is *The Fruit of the Spirit* (Galatians 5:16-26). The apostle Paul wrote letters to the Galatians, Jews, arguing with Gentiles. "*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*" Paul's words are from the Holy Spirit, from God, used by Paul to settle conflict. We must use these behaviors today and always. Reinforcing them with our children, to be carried daily, is faith formation and spiritual growth.

Children's Sunday is on June 7. Church school won't be on Zoom next week. We will be part of the worship service as teachers speak to children and families. We are truly blessed by all taking part in church school.

HC@home, a virtual summer camp program of the New Hampshire Conference, UCC's Horton Center, is open to all for fun and games in a faith formation environment. More information can be found on their website: <https://hortoncenter.org/>

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for June include canned fruit, flour, sugar, boxed cake mixes and baking supplies, coffee, tea, juice, and granola. Donations should be brought directly to the SHARE Center in Milford. In this time of social distancing, please call their office at 673-9898 for guidance. Many thanks for your continuing support!

STATE OF THE CHURCH VIRTUAL MEETING: A virtual **informational meeting** will be held on **Sunday, May 31 at 11:00 a.m.** to briefly go over the church's financial status and to answer questions. We will also give an overview of the FY21 budget. A link to the meeting was sent by email.

While we continue to practice social distancing, and with large in-person gatherings still prohibited, we have had to postpone our annual meeting until later this year. No voting will take place at Sunday's meeting, it is an informational meeting. Everything discussed will be posted on the church website, so if you are unable to attend you will still be able to stay updated. Upon request, this information can also be mailed to you.

FAITH PROMISE: Our new fiscal year **Stewardship Campaign** is ongoing during the COVID-19 church building closure. As of Friday, May 29, we have received pledge intentions from 110 families, totaling \$290,583. 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/>.

Everyone Could Win \$\$!

“How?” you might ask – it’s simple! Purchase raffle tickets! Here are the details:

- 10 Cash prizes range from \$500 - \$5,000. Yes, you could win \$5,000!
- Ticket price is \$20 and \$10 of that comes straight back to our church – more sales = more \$\$ for CCA
- The drawing will take place on Friday, 26 June, rain or shine, golf or no golf.



Please share this information with 10 family members and/or friends!

Bonus: each ticket comes with 6 great coupons: \$20 off at Giorgio’s restaurant, \$10 off a full-service oil change at Valvoline in Milford, one hour free rental at Amherst Country Club indoor golf simulator, 2 for 1 comedy show admission at Zinger’s, 15% discount at The Copy Shop, and 10% off Humble Kitchen (see ticket for details for coupon restrictions).

Bigger bonus: If you would like to designate the church as the recipient of any winnings, CCA might just win something too! If you would like to do this, please email Sally Hooper at sallyhoop@comcast.net with your name and how many of your purchased tickets you would like designated with the church as the prize recipient.

This is a fundraising effort of the **Milford Rotary Club** in conjunction with their **100 Holes of Golf in One Day** charity tournament. Each year this event raises considerable funds that are distributed to local, regional and international community and non-profit organizations, and are used to provide \$30,000 in scholarships to area students.

Purchase tickets at <https://pay.golf100holes.com/?charity=Amherst%20Congregational%20Church>

If you prefer not to purchase online, you can mail a check to the church (please write raffle in the memo line and include an address so we can mail you the ticket): 11 Church Street, Amherst, NH 03031.

All tickets purchased will be mailed to the address provided during the purchase.

Please contact Sally Hooper at sallyhoop@comcast.net or 603-321-1143 for questions or more details.

Financial Summary			
(as of April 30, 2020)			
	YTD	YTD	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$357,172	\$345,391	\$11,781
Expenses	\$355,090	\$360,338	\$(5,248)
Net Income	\$ 2,082	\$(14,947)	\$17,029

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 31, 2020

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:



June 7: Genesis 1:1-2:4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

June 14: Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
Or Exodus 19:2-8a
Psalm 100
Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

Our Church Calendar

May 31—June 6, 2020

All events are taking place virtually,
please check your email for the links.

Today	9:00 a.m.	Church School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship—Facebook
	10:40 a.m.	Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	State of the Church
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Fellowship
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Men's Fellowship
	1:30 p.m.	Small Group Ministry
	6:00 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday	5:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group Check In
Thursday	1:30 p.m.	Prayerful Playgroup
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Fellowship