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

*"Laughter is an escape, not from truth but from despair:*
*a narrow escape into faith."*

—Christopher Fry

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

June 14, 2020 Second Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE *Maricetta* Theodore Dubois

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP and PRAYER OF INVOCATION
People of God
our journey has brought us here once again.
To this day of Sabbath.
To this hour of worship.
To this place of sanctuary.
As Abraham and Sarah welcomed
the weary travelers
so God welcomes us.
God greets us with joy
and says, "rest here for awhile."
God brings out water to wash our dusty feet.
God prepares a meal to nourish our tired spirits.
So let us receive the gracious hospitality of our God.
Let us rest in this holy place
where there is shade and water, food and laughter,
Love and grace.

Let us pray:
Healing and comforting God, you are always present in our lives, bringing hope out of despair, growth out of difficulty, new life out of destruction. We thank you that you do not leave us alone but labor to make us whole. Help us to perceive your unseen hand in the unfolding of our lives, and to attend to the gentle guidance of your Spirit, that we may know the joy you give your people. Amen

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 Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."

The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Now Sarah said, "God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me." And she said, "Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

SERMON "Sarah Laughed"

ANTHEM *Be Thou My Vision* arr. Sally DeFord
Sara Phelps, soprano
Michael Havay, piano

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)
We give thanks, generous God, because we owe you more than we can ever repay. We give because there are needs to be met among us and in other places where we cannot go. We give because we need to be generous in order to be whole. Loving God, bless all givers who provide for others out of their means, and multiply these resources in your service. 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.

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE *You Shall Go Out With Joy!* Douglas E. Wagner
(Lorenz Publishing Co.)

# 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.

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

*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 | Ministers to the World |
| Rev. Maureen R. Frescott | Senior Pastor |
| Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy | Associate Pastor |
| Sara L. Phelps | Director of Music |
| Michael Havay | Organist/Accompanist |

CHURCH SCHOOL NOTES: The story of Abraham and Sarah is from the book of Genesis. God told Abraham that Sara would give birth. It was certainly wondrous, a very significant message for our time. Parents are charged with supporting the wondrous event. While children share their feelings, both sad and happy, when separated from friends, families, the usual celebrations, and so on, the opportunity presents itself to point out all that is wondrous in our world.

Weekly posts on Facebook for church school children, families and friends will be available each Thursday. Church school posts are to be informative as well as fun, with activities related to the worship service. Thank you to Jeanne Neverisky for posting church school messages.

Church School Blog: Keep those creative pictures coming, and any poetry of your own creation. (Think of Pastor Kate's theme for ideas.)

Updates are in the June *Spire*.

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/

ADULT ED SUMMER SERIES: Waking Up White: As Christians, we are called to love all of God's creation and resist the powers of evil and injustice in our midst. In the wake of the most recent public killings of black and brown Americans in our country, you may be wondering—what can I possibly do? Let's start by looking inward, and discovering how we have been shaped by the systems of oppression in our world.

Starting Thursday, June 25, join Pastor Kate for a new Adult Ed program on the book *Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race*, by Debby Irving. For four weeks, from June 25 through July 16, we will dive into the challenging and important topic of racism and whiteness together. Reach out to Pastor Kate with questions or to sign up for the group by June 22.

## Our Church Calendar

June 14—20, 2020

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

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 10:00 a.m.<br>10:40 a.m. | Worship—Facebook<br>Fellowship |
| Monday | 10:00 a.m. | WA Fellowship |
| Tuesday | 9:00 a.m. | Men's Fellowship |
| Wednesday | 5:00 p.m. | Senior High Youth Group Check In |
| Thursday | 1:30 p.m. | Prayerful Playgroup |

# *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 Actual | YTD Budget | Difference |
|---|---|---|---|
| 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: Keith Lammers, Paul Spiess, Doug Topliffe, Todd Whitney and Tim Wiegand (Treasurer).*

*Sunday, June 14, 2020*