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

"Later on in life, you expect a bit of rest, don't you?
You think you deserve it.
I did, anyway. But then you begin to understand
that the reward of merit is not life's business."

—Julian Barnes, *The Sense of an Ending*

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

July 5, 2020 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE *This is My Song* Jean Sibelius/
Lyndall Leatherman
(Lorenz Publishing Co.)

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP and PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)
Come, all who are weary
of disease, of poverty, of power, of struggle, of division.

Come, all who are heavy-laden
with too much, with too little, with anxiety, with fear, with anger.

Come, all who have hope
for liberation, for peace, for freedom, for a cure, for the kin-dom of God.

Come, all who are seeking rest
for tired bodies, for overburdened minds, for weary souls.

Hear these words of Jesus
"My yoke is easy, my burden is light, and in me you will find rest."

Let us pray:

In times of weakness, O God, yours is the strength that allows us to carry on.
When our load is heavy and too much to bear, yours is the shoulder we rest our head upon.
When we're feeling anxious and overwhelmed, yours are the arms outstretched to calm us.
When we've fallen short of expectations, yours is the grace that we depend on.
In this hour of sanctuary and Sabbath, we ask that you show us the path to wholeness,
of body and of spirit,
the path that leads to you. Amen.

May your Spirit move among us now, Oh God, in this sanctuary and in our homes, 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 Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus said: "But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

SERMON "Rest For Your Souls"

ANTHEM *Like a River in My Soul* arr. Tim Osiek
Chancel Choir (Beckenhorst Press)

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)
O God of light, our hearts overflow with thanksgiving for the bounty of this world that you've given to us. As you have led us down the path of wholeness and healing, we seek to offer healing to others. We reach out to help, expecting no reward but the satisfaction of sharing what you have so richly entrusted to us. Bless our offering of self and substance, we pray. 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)
Spirit of Christ, you have blessed our tables and our lives. May the eating of this Bread and the drinking of this Cup give us courage to speak faith and act love, not only in church sanctuaries, but out in your precious world. Wrap your hopeful presence around all whose bodies, spirits and hearts need healing, and let us become your compassion and safe refuge to all. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE *Fanfare Postlude* Douglas E. Wagner
(Lorenz Publishing Co.)

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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 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

Financial Summary

(as of May 31, 2020)

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference
Income	$401,711	$373,190	$28,521
Expenses	$387,015	$390,163	$(3,148)
Net Income	$ 14,695	$(16,973)	$31,668

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).

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
John Swanson	Liturgist

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Wendy Valeri	Bell Choir Director
Marilyn Gibson	Church School Coordinator

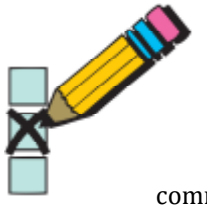
CHURCH SCHOOL: The fourth Fruit of the Spirit is one of patience. "*I waited patiently for the Lord; He inclined to me and heard my cry…*" (Psalm 40:1) Patience was the topic of discourse through the church school Facebook post of Thursday, July 2, 2020. Patience for adults is urgent when encountered in numerous facets of adult life. However, adults capable to address it, wait calmly. Children, on the other hand, require guidance. Psalm 40:1 provides the message children and adults must undertake. When we speak to God in prayer, the Holy Spirit delivers. God, the omnipotent, answers in a timely manner.

Facebook Post—Kindness: Church school presents the fifth Fruit of the Spirit on Thursday, July 9. The site listed below provides a page to engage youngsters with the fruit of kindness. "*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*" (Ephesians 4:32)
https://ministry-to-children.com/kindness-coloring-pages/

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for July include pancake mix and syrup, condiments, cooking sauces and seasonings, cooking oils, jelly, and cold cereal. 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!

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:

July 12:		Genesis 25:19-34
		Psalm 119:105-112
	Or	Isaiah 55:10-13
		Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13
		Romans 8:1-11
		Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
July 19:		Genesis 28:10-19a
		Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
	Or	Song of Solomon 12:13, 16-19
		Psalm 86:11-17
		Romans 8:12-25
		Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43



Reopening Taskforce Survey

We're all longing for the day when we can be together again as a church community – worshiping, serving, learning, and connecting with one another in-person rather than "virtually" as we've been doing for the last four months!

As our ad hoc team continues to formulate plans for our reopening, WE NEED YOUR INPUT as we consider the steps we'll need to take to gather safely in our sanctuary and building in September. Please take a few moments to complete our online questionnaire regarding our Sunday Worship and our Children and Youth programs.

When we are together once again in our sanctuary it will look and feel different from what we've grown accustomed to on Sunday mornings, at least temporarily. It's important for us to know what your comfort level is with the precautions that will need to be taken and what your plans may be for returning to in-person worship, church school, and youth programs for your children. As we've said all along, our primary mission is to keep the most vulnerable among us safe, and we recognize there will be some or many of you who will choose to continue to worship with us virtually even if we do resume gathering in-person. Please know that our online worship will continue to be an option in some form regardless of our plans to return to our sanctuary.

An email with the link to the survey was sent out on Sunday, July 5. If you would like a paper copy, contact Andrea in the church office. Please respond to the questionnaire by July 13. We look forward to hearing from you!

Our Church Calendar

July 5—11, 2020

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

Today	10:00 a.m.	Worship—Facebook
	10:40 a.m.	Fellowship
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Fellowship
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Men's Fellowship
	1:30 p.m.	Small Group Ministry
Wednesday	4:00 p.m.	Reopening Taskforce
Thursday	1:30 p.m.	Prayerful Playgroup
	6:00 p.m.	*Waking Up White* Adult Ed series

Sunday, July 5, 2020