

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



*“As you enter positions of trust and power,
dream a little before you think.”*

—Toni Morrison

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

July 26, 2020

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

Prelude No. 2 in G Major

Felix Mendelssohn

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP(in unison)

The kingdom of God is here, and coming.

Like the smallest mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;
it grows and becomes mighty, welcoming all of creation to find shade in its branches.
Like the yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour,
it rises 100 fold, and is made to share.

Like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid;
It is worth all that we have to hold it close.

Like a fine, rare pearl,
It is of great, innumerable value.

Yes, the kingdom of God is here, and coming.
Do you understand what God is doing?
Come now, worship, open your hearts.
Hear the Good News of God.

Let us pray:

Lord, you place before us the images of the small--the tiny mustard seed, the grain of yeast, the small treasure--and remind us that we, though we think of ourselves as small, are not insignificant in your kingdom. Open our hearts and our spirits to you in thankful remembrance of the ways in which we can serve you throughout all our lives.

May your Spirit move among us now, Oh God, as we pray the words that Jesus taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

we pray the words Jesus 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

Sue Werst

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

SERMON

"Have you understood?"

ANTHEM

How Great Thou Art

Jean and Jim Gottwald

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Lord, receive our gifts and our lives. Teach us to see the blessings that arrive in the most unexpected places. Cause all of these blessings to work for you in this world which you have loaned to us for safekeeping. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

Toccatina

Guglielmo Enrico Lardelli



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.***

***Portions of the liturgy have been adapted from
The Ministry Matters website. <https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/5165/worship-connection-july-26-2020>***

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy

Michael Havay

Roger Hooper

Ministers to the World

Associate Pastor

Organist/Accompanist

Liturgist

Rev. Maureen R. Prescott

Sara L. Phelps

Wendy Valeri

Marilyn Gibson

Senior Pastor

Director of Music

Bell Choir Director

Church School Coordinator

SOS—VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to mow our church's lawns during August, September and October. The front lawn needs to be cut weekly, but over the summer the rest of the lawn only needs to be cut once every 2-3 weeks. To sign up for a week, contact Tom Werst at tom-w@pobox.com or 603-759-8191. The church has a lawn tractor. Instruction on operating the lawn tractor, and boundaries of the church lawn are available upon request.

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!

PLEASE NO “GOOD STUFF:” Unfortunately, concerns about the COVID virus threat have forced the cancellation of the Woman's Association “Good Stuff” Fall Rummage Sale. Due to lack of storage space, the WA cannot accept any donations for the foreseeable future.

Our Church Calendar

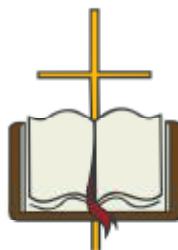
July 26—August 1, 2020

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
Thursday	1:30 p.m.	Prayerful Playgroup

Sunday, July 26, 2020

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:



August 2:	Genesis 32:22-31 Psalm 17:1-7, 15 Or Isaiah 55:1-5 Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21
August 9:	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b Or 1 Kings 19:9-18 Psalm 85:8-13 Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-33