

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



*"Heaven goes by favor. If it went by merit you would
stay out and your dog would go in."*

—Mark Twain

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

August 2, 2020

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim

William Croft/
Raymond H. Haan
(Lorenz Publishing)

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP and PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

When we are hungry we search for bread.
When we are thirsty we search for water.
When we are hungry and thirsty in spirit we search for God.

Only those who long for connection will initiate it.
Only those who ache for meaning will pursue it.
Only those who yearn for a deeper life will seek it.
This is a place for those who ache and yearn and long for something more.

So let us come here today,
in body and in spirit,
with our hunger and thirst,
our unsatisfied longings,
our heart-felt yearnings,
and let the God of life feed, nurture, and satisfy our souls.

Let us pray:

God of dawning light, who greets us new every morning, you speak to us in so many ways: in the beauty of the created world, in the interactions we have with one another, in the struggles and wrestling matches we have within ourselves. Thank you for this gift. May we gently lay down those things that we are wrestling with today, placing them in your care, so that we might be more fully present to you in this hour. May your Spirit inspire us with purpose and guide us forward with hope and joy. Amen.

As you draw us close, O God, may your Spirit move among us 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

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 32:22-31

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maidservants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, along with all his possessions. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then the man said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So the man said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But the man said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

SERMON

"Wrestling with God"

ANTHEM

Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Chancel Choir

arr. Roy Ringwald
(Shawnee Press)

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

We give because you have been generous with us, gracious God. We give to feed the hungers of body and soul that are all around us and deep within. We give because we long for connection, with you and with one another. May our offerings through the ministries of this church meet the needs of our congregation, our community, and our world. 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

Trio Sonata in F Major, Op. 2, No. 4: Allegro

G. F. Handel

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:



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

August 16: Genesis 45:1-15
Psalm 133
Or Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Psalm 67
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28



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

***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
Ann Siddall and the Stillpoint Spirituality Centre.***

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

Peter Labombarde

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Liturgist

Wendy Valeri

Marilyn Gibson

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.

CHURCH SCHOOL Facebook post on *Gentleness: "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."* (Proverbs 15:1). Parents role model to their children. Teaching faith and spirituality begins at home. Church school nurtures faith and spirituality. Visit our **church school Facebook post each week** nurturing faith and spirituality.

Reopening church and church school is assigned to our ad hoc team. The recommendations of the team are anticipated for our Council meeting, the first Tuesday in August.

Worship service invites you and your child to take part. Contact Pastor Maureen or Pastor Kate to be part of our spiritual formation.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for August include toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo and conditioner, bar soap, feminine hygiene products, diapers and wipes. 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!

Our Church Calendar

August 1—8, 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
	4:00 p.m.	Christian Ed
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Men's Fellowship
	1:30 p.m.	Small Group Ministry
	6:00 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
Thursday	1:30 p.m.	Prayerful Playgroup