

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



***“I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change.
I am changing the things I cannot accept.”***

– Angela Y. Davis

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

August 16, 2020

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens Adore Him

Rowland H. Pritchard/
arr. Jason D. Payne
(Lorenz Publishing Co.)

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP and PRAYER OF INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

Adapted from Psalm 67

People of God, praise the Lord.

May God be gracious to us and bless us and may God's face shine upon us.

May God's way make peace upon earth, and God's saving power move among nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth shine in the grace of God.

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, we come to you asking for nourishment.

Bread of life.

Bread of love.

Bread of hope.

We come to you asking for mercy.

Mercy for ourselves.

Mercy for our loved ones.

Mercy for our world.

We come to you asking for hope.

Hope for today.

Hope for tomorrow.

Hope for the transformation of our future.

Jesus, lord of all lost sheep,
Heal us with the bread of life.
Forgive us with unbounded mercy.
Inspire us with hope for the world.
Open our hearts for worship this day.

And we lift up all of this with the words that Jesus has taught us, saying,

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

Marilyn Gibson

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, 'Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.' Then the disciples approached and said to him, 'Do you know that the Pharisees took offence when they heard what you said?' He answered, 'Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.' But Peter said to him, 'Explain this parable to us.' Then he said, 'Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.'

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

SERMON

"Great is Your Faith"

ANTHEM

Sonata No. 1 in F Major: Vivace

Georg Philipp Telemann

Sue Werst, flute
Michael Havay, piano

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

God of abundance and joy, we thank you for the many blessings you have poured on our lives. Receive these gifts, lovingly given, and bless them in your service. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

Postlude in G Minor

Franklin Ritter
(Lorenz Publishing Co.)

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:



August 23: Exodus 1:8-2:10
Psalm 124

Or Isaiah 51:1-6
Psalm 138
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

August 30: Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 105:1-6,23-26, 45b

Or Jeremiah 15:15-21
Psalm 26:1-8
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28



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.*

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church
 Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy
 Michael Havay
 Russ Demarest
 Marilyn Gibson
 Sue Werst

Ministers to the World
 Associate Pastor
 Organist/Accompanist
 Liturgist
 Church School Coordinator
 Musician

CHURCH SCHOOL: Children's Letters To God, compiled by Stuart Hample and Eric Marshall: *Dear God, I don't ever feel alone since I found out about you. Nora.*

Our recent **Facebook post** is on the Fruit of the Spirit, **Self-Control**. Self-control means being in control of your feelings, actions and thoughts. It is your child's ability – and yours – to stop and think before acting.

READY – SET – GO: Church school teachers are planning to return to on-site church school as soon as Council reviews the advice of the hardworking, conscientious Ad Hoc Committee. In the meantime, teachers and our Christian Ed team are planning for the fall term. Stay tuned, updates will be available as they are announced.

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 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 16—22, 2020

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

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| 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 |
| Wednesday | 6:00 p.m. | Middle High Youth |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Communications Team |
| Thursday | 1:30 p.m. | Prayerful Playgroup |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Waking Up 2.0 |

Care Package Drive for College Bound Students Receiving Foster Care Support



The World Service team is always looking for ways to help our community AND provide hands on opportunities for all of us. For the month of August, we are hosting a care package drive for college bound students still receiving partial foster care support. These kids are working so hard to get an education and we would love to help them out!

We are collecting new items for 5 'STARTER' kits for first-year students, and 5 'RETURNING' kits for students already attending college.

We are trying out a new tool for this drive, SignUp Genius, which we hope will make it easy for everyone to sign up for what they want to donate. Just FYI, you do not need to have an account to use SignUp genius. When you sign up for an item (s), you will receive an email with drop-off instructions. Click the SignUp Genius logo below!



If you choose any of the gift card items, please purchase them through our [SUCCESS CARD](#) program which will benefit the students AND the church!

If you have any questions, please contact [Karen O'Malley](#) (759-5874) or [Nancy Protzmann](#) (321-7099).

Sunday, August 16, 2020