

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



*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people  
can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”*

—Margaret Mead

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

August 30, 2020

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

*Where Charity and Love Prevail*

Plainsong *Ubi caritas*,  
arr. Mark Roberts  
(Lorenz Publishing Co.)

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP and PRAYER OF INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER

We are here this morning  
to celebrate the many ways  
our lives are meant to be a living sacrifice  
to our God.

God calls us to love all people as if  
they were our siblings,  
for God seeks to weave us into one family,  
tearing down all the barriers between us.  
No matter how weary we become  
from our struggles, our loneliness, our service,  
God challenges us to be patient,  
to rejoice, and to never cease hoping.  
When we encounter meanness, dishonesty, hatefulness,  
we are called to respond with  
that love which is true and sincere.

Why should we do all these things?  
Because we are God's people,  
called to lives which are different,  
and which make a difference!

**Let us pray:**

God our Creator,  
you are alive:  
in the singing of birds at dawn,  
in the leaves gently stirring in the breeze,  
in the stars that dance at night.

Jesus, Brother to us all,  
you are here among us:  
    in the touch of a grandmother,  
    in the cries of a newborn,  
    in the stillness after a storm.

Spirit of God,  
you make all our places holy:  
    the sanctuaries where we long to gather,  
    the common spaces where we meet our neighbors,  
    the grass in our backyards.

God in Community, Holy in One,  
make us aware of your presence in every moment,  
as we pray as we are taught, 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

Sue Werst

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

SERMON

"Love Check"

ANTHEM

*I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord*  
Wendy Valeri, handbells  
Michael Havay, piano

arr. Cathy Moglebust  
(Choristers Guild)

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 you have entrusted to us. As you have freed us from the chains of selfishness and self-interest, 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.

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

*They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love*

Peter Scholtes,  
Arr. Lani Smith  
(Lorenz Publishing Co.)

***The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:***



September 6: Exodus 12:1-14

Psalm 149

*Or*

Ezekiel 33:7-11

Psalm 119:33-40

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

September 13: Exodus 14:19-31

Psalm 114 *or* Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21

*Or*

Genesis 50:15-21

Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35



**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](mailto: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](http://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 our liturgy are adapted from Thom M. Shuman  
at Lectionary Liturgies at Blogspot.com.***

## PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott

Michael Havay

Wendy Valeri

Bridget Thompson

Sue Werst

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Organist/Accompanist

Bell Choir Director

Liturgist

Church School Teacher

**SOS—VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** to mow our church's lawns during 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 September include canned ham, canned meats, side dishes (seasoned pasta mix, Hamburger Helper, etc.), Ravioli & Beefaroni. 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!

### Financial Summary

(as of July 31, 2020)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$123,938	\$79,138	\$44,800
Expenses	\$ 60,465	\$65,366	\$( 4,901)
Net Income	\$ 63,473	\$13,772	\$49,701

*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).*



## Rally Sunday is September 13

Join us as we look forward to a very active fall!

We continue to worship online. Join us at **10:00 a.m.** through our website, our Facebook page or YouTube. Zoom in and say hello during virtual coffee hour afterwards.

During worship on September 13 we'll be doing a "Blessing of the Backpacks and School Supplies" for all of our students and teachers who are returning to school in-person and virtually.

Families, sign up for Church School's Brown Bag Lessons: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4CAEA62EA1F8C25-church>

Visit our website and Facebook page for all the latest news on what's happening here at CCA.

### Our Church Calendar

August 30—September 5, 2020

Most 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
	6:00 p.m.	Building Team
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Men's Fellowship
	6:00 p.m.	Church Council
Thursday	1:30 p.m.	Prayerful Playgroup
	4:00 p.m.	Reopening Taskforce
	6:00 p.m.	Waking Up 2.0

*Sunday, August 30, 2020*