

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



"The overall purpose of human communication is--or should be--reconciliation. It should ultimately serve to lower or remove the walls of misunderstanding which unduly separate us human beings, one from another."

- M. Scott Peck, *The Different Drum*

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

September 6, 2020

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

O God, Thou Art the Father

David Paxton
(Lorenz Publishing Co.)

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

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

God of justice, peace and righteousness
come into our midst this morning.
Breathe your breath,
Your Spirit of prophecy,
Your energy,
Your enlivening,
Your imagination on us.
Wake us up
Open our eyes
Unplug our ears
That we might hear
That we might see
That we might grieve
That we might dream
That we might follow the ways of your extraordinary "kingdom"
and help create the world that we long to live in.

Let us pray:

Mother and Father God,
You have set before us the path
but we have wandered on our own
to try to find our way.

Sometimes we are like toddlers
and we hear Your call and come back.
Other times, we are children testing boundaries,
ignoring Your call until fear finally makes us look back.

And still other times we are full of youthful rebellion,
demanding to be cut loose and set free.
But most of all, too often we think we are adults
and have figured it all out and know our own way.

Remind us, Creating God,
that we are always Your children,
that we always have much to learn.

Help us to seek You every day,
to acknowledge that we need Your wisdom and guidance,
and help us to return to the path and walk with You.
In the name of Jesus,
who is our companion on this journey of faith, we pray:

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 18:15-20

"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

SERMON

"Where Two or Three Are Gathered"

ANTHEM

Gather By the River to Pray
Chancel Choir

arr. Pepper Choplin
(Lorenz Publishing)

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

O God, who has given us a vision of your will and your purposes, help us to use the resources we dedicate here to accomplish the work you would have us do. With joy, we bring the fruits of our labor, the work of our hands, the days of our lives for your special blessing. Send your Spirit into our midst to consecrate us anew in your service. 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)

We give thanks, loving God, for the bond of this ritual and communal meal that links us to all who have called upon your name. May your wisdom grow within us. May your word inspire us. May the nourishment of this bread and cup strengthen us for the journey, as you send us out into the world as people of courage, compassion, and commitment. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

Voluntary on "Kremser" (We Gather Together)

Gordon Young
(Theodore Presser Co.)



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 our liturgy are adapted from
Rev. Mindi at rev-o-lution.org***

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

Herb and Emily Archer

Marilyn Gibson

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Liturgists

Church School Coordinator

CHURCH SCHOOL: "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6)

Brown Bag Lessons—Teachers are gearing up, preparing faith formation lessons for our church school children. Delivering lessons has taken on a new form, a brown bag. Sign up using this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4CAEA62EA1F8C25-church>. For more information, visit our faith formation link on our website, or visit us on Facebook.

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.

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:



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

September 20: Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

Or
Jonah 3:10-4:11
Psalm 145:1-8

Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16



What is Small Group Ministry?

Small Group Ministry is where 8-10 people meet with the intention of establishing deeper connections with each other and with God.

The groups meet once a month from October to June, and are led by lay members of the congregation.

The group meetings run 1.5 hours and include a check-in, a short topic reading, discussion of the topic, and closing prayer.

We have a weekday group, an evening group, and a weekend group to allow members to pick a time that best fits their schedule.

This year we're focusing on

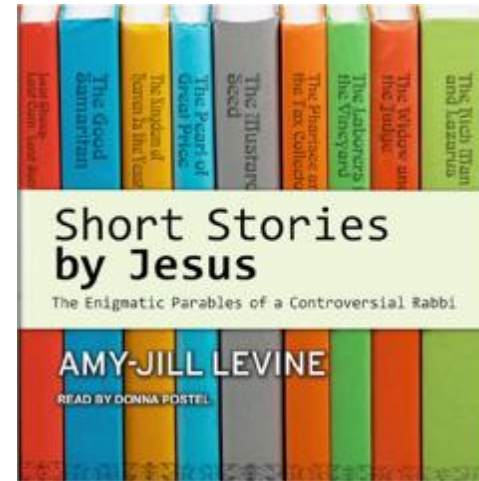
Short Stories by Jesus

Using the book by Amy-Jill Levine as a guide, we'll explore the parables of Jesus and the many ways they have to guide, comfort, inspire, provoke, and change us!

There's no need to purchase the book and no prep-time is needed! The readings and discussion questions for each month will be emailed ahead of time and are short enough to be read when the group is gathered.

Schedule for 2020-2021

October:	The Good Samaritan
November:	The Rich Man
December:	The Persistent Widow
January:	The Laborers in the Vineyard
February:	The Talents
March:	The Prodigal Son
April:	The Sower
May:	The Mustard Seed
June:	The Lost Sheep



Choose a Group!

First Tuesday	1:30–3:00 p.m.
Second Wednesday	6:30-8:00 p.m.
First Sunday	12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

All groups will meet on Zoom in October. Plans for in-person meetings may be arranged after that point if possible!

How To Get Involved

You may join a group at any time of the year as long as your choice is still open. Each group is limited to ten members.

Sign up online at ccamherst.org or contact Pastor Maureen at 603-673-3231 x11, pastormaureen@ccamherst.org

Sunday, September 6, 2020



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

September 6—12, 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
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Men's Fellowship
	7:00 p.m.	Diaconate
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
Thursday	1:30 p.m.	Prayerful Playgroup
	6:00 p.m.	Waking Up 2.0