

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



***"The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read
and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn."***

—attributed to Alvin Toffler

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

September 13, 2020

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m.

Rally Sunday

PRELUDE

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J. S. Bach

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

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

We gather in community, where God would teach us:

so we may learn to be more compassionate,
so we may be taught how to be more loving.

We gather in community, where Jesus would teach us
the wisdom to choose forgiveness over holding a grudge,
the language of hope so we may speak to all.

We gather in community, where the Spirit imparts wisdom,
so we might know how to share grace,
so we would learn to welcome all to God's Table.

Let us pray:

Liberating God:

you set us free from our loneliness
by the touch of another's hand;
you deliver us from our selfishness,
so we may be of service to others;
you break the chains of our pride,
so we might walk with you in humility.

Christ of love,

when we would cling to our anger,
you send forgiveness to take us by the hand;
when we would feast on our bitterness,
you share the Bread of New Life;
when we would drink from the fountain of despair,
you pour out the Cup of Hope.

Spirit of light and learning:
you gather us together in God's school
to teach us how
to live together,
to serve together,
to love together,
so that those around us might know
that you are in their midst.

God in Community, Holy in One,
fill us with your wisdom as we pray, 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

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

SERMON

"Lifelong Learning"

ANTHEM

For the Beauty of the Earth
Chancel Choir

John Rutter
(Oxford University 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. May the ministries of this church meet the needs of our congregation, our community, and our world. Help us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune II

Michael McCabe
(H. W. Gray Publications/
Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp.)

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:



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

September 27: Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Or Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Psalm 25:1-9
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32



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
Thom M. Shuman at LectionaryLiturgies.blogspot.com***

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

Sue Spiess

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Liturgist

TODAY IS RALLY DAY! We are looking forward to a very active fall. Online worship continues on Sunday mornings at **10:00 a.m.** Join us through our website, our Facebook page or YouTube. Zoom in and say hello during virtual coffee hour afterwards.

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.

WHAT WAS THE LINK? Many of our programs are taking place virtually these days. To help you keep track, the **members section** of our website now has a list of recurring meetings with their Zoom links and passwords. Meetings scheduled as one-time are not found here, but recurring group meetings such as virtual coffee hour, Woman's Association, Church Council, Prayerful Playgroup, etc. are all here.

Please note that at the end of September Zoom will be requiring passwords for all meetings. If you are no longer able to access a meeting, please check this list for an updated link or password.

If you haven't yet signed up for access to the members section, its easy to do and you'll have access to our other interesting "clicks," like our church school blog, our photo galleries, our SOS needs, and more. Sign up today at ccamherst.org.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for September include canned ham, canned meats, side dishes (seasoned pasta mix, Hamburger Helper, etc.), ravioli and Beef-a-Roni. Donations should be brought directly to the SHARE Center in Milford; if you are unsure where, please call their office at 673-9898. Many thanks for your continuing support!



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.

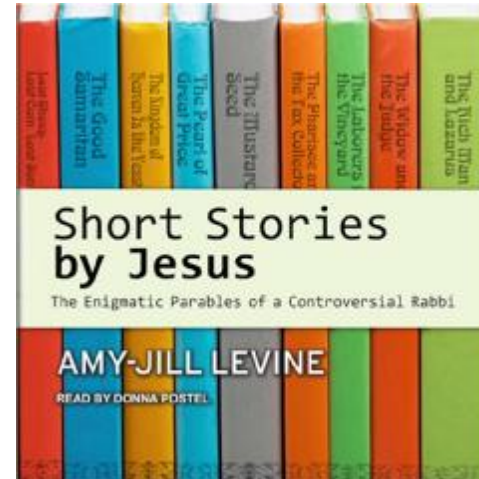
This year we're focusing on
Short Stories by Jesus

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 13, 2020

Our Church Calendar

September 13—19, 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.	Woman's Association
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Men's Fellowship
	7:00 p.m.	Diaconate
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	4:00 p.m.	Communications Team
	6:00 p.m.	Middle High Youth Group— Outdoor Gathering
Thursday	1:30 p.m.	Prayerful Playgroup
	6:00 p.m.	Waking Up 2.0