

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



***“These commandments might not be taken as a series of rules,
but as a proclamation in God’s own mouth of who God is and how
God shall be ‘practiced’ by this community of liberated slaves.”***

—Walter Brueggemann, *The New Interpreter’s Bible*

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

October 4, 2020

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

Bread of the World

J. S. B. Hodges/
setting by Todd Kendall
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GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

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

Do not be afraid of the thunder or the lightening,
Because God is here.
Do not be afraid of the smoky mountain,
Because God is here.
Do not be afraid of the loud noises, of the sounding trumpet,
Because God is here.
God is made known to us in the loud times,
As well as in the quiet ones.
God is found in chaotic times,
Just as often as in peaceful ones.
Come closer.
Draw near.
Do not be afraid.
Hear the word of God.

Let us pray:

Eternal God,
whose signature we see, if we dare to look,
in the creation of the universe,
help us this hour to look and to listen
for Your handwriting and Your voice in this place,
among these people.

Connect our passing praise to Your timeless rhythms,
Your ageless melodies,
Your everlasting joyful noise.

Guide us now to focus upon You,
knowing that in You,
our distractions become new possibilities.

Breathe life into our singing, our praying,
our speaking, our listening,
that all these activities might become more than they are.
In our worship we reach out to You, O God,
knowing that You have already enfolded us in Your arms.

In Jesus's name, we pray in the words that he 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

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

HYMN

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labor and do all your work.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, 'You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die.' Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin.'

SERMON

“How to Practice God”

ANTHEM

Prayer for Peace
Chancel Choir

Benjamin Harlan

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

God, may we take seriously your commandment to have no other gods before you. Take these gifts that we have offered today, and give them new life in service to you. Take our hearts that we have offered today, and give **us** new life in service to you. Transform us through the act of giving, that we may be less beholden to idols and more captivated in love. In Jesus’s name we pray, 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

Dies sind die heiligen zehn Gebot
(These are the holy Ten Commandments)

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck



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 prayers
posted on the My Redeemer Lives website.***

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

Liturgist

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Anita Swanson

REOPENING INFORMATION AVAILABLE:

Our ad hoc Reopening Team has been hard at work thinking through and putting in place plans for our congregation to regroup in person for worship and small group meetings.

Are you curious where things stand? Through the **members** section on our **website**, we have a page dedicated to communicating with our church family on both current policies and procedures for use of the building during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the progress of our ad hoc Reopening Team. Documents will be posted as they are made available. If you have any questions or concerns about any of this information, please reach out to any member of the team: Pastor Maureen Frescott, Jessica Greer, Pastor Kate Kennedy, Keith Lammers, Susan Manchester, Kathy Skoglund, Paul Spiess, Kate Thompson, Doug Topliffe, Sue Werst, Tom Werst.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for October include canned fruit, flour, sugar, boxed cake mixes and baking supplies, coffee, tea, juice, and granola. 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!

CHURCH SCHOOL: Brown Bag Lessons have been created for each family that has requested one. To request a lesson visit our church website, go to Learn, PreK-Grade7, and record your family name in SignUpGenius.

Parents, this year's **Backpack Tag** is available for download through our website: <https://www.ccamherst.org/church-school/>. Attach one to all your children's bags. This year's theme, **Be The Church**, is on there, along with a special blessing.

Financial Summary

(as of August 31, 2020)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$151,913	\$108,707	\$ 43,206
Expenses	\$ 87,391	\$ 97,817	\$(10,426)
Net Income	\$ 64,522	\$ 10,889	\$ 53,632

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).

END 68 HOURS OF HUNGER is now working with very small groups of volunteers to continue their important work of packaging and providing food bags for students. If you are interested in this hands-on mission opportunity, please reach out to Nancy Protzmann (uyvmcats84@gmail.com or 603-321-7099) for more details on how you can help.

DRIVE BY FOOD DRIVE: Drive by the church and hand your bagged donations to our volunteers. (Please NO glass). All items collected will go to **support End 68 Hours of Hunger**. Friday, October 16 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, October 17 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Thank you for your support!

ONLINE ACCESS TO WEEKLY BULLETIN: If you would like to download or print the weekly Sunday bulletin prior to the sermon, you can view it on the website prior to watching the sermon. It is available the Friday afternoon prior to the Sunday online worship. <https://www.ccamherst.org/weekly-bulletin/>

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 passwords are now required 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, it's 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.

Adult Ed Series

A NEW Look at the OLD Testament



Wednesdays, October 7 and October 21
10:00—11:30 a.m. on Zoom

Is the OLD Testament still relevant today? Who wrote it and why? From the Creation story to the Exodus, the poetry of the Psalms, and the suffering of Job, the Old Testament is familiar yet mysterious to many of us. We'll take a NEW look at the OLD Testament through this 2019 video lecture series produced by the Great Courses. These dynamic lectures give us a new look at this seminal text with a fresh perspective, rich visual aids and fascinating examination of the original context, shedding light on one of the world's most beloved books.

We'll watch the video together as a group and then have a discussion facilitated by Pastor Maureen. All are welcome! Please RSVP to pastormaureen@ccamherst.org to receive the Zoom link, or access the link on our church website in the Members Section under "Wednesday Adult Ed."

NEIGHBORS IN NEED is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice. Grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities. For more information visit the Neighbors in Need UCC Special Offering Page: <http://www.ucc.org/nin>.

Sunday, October 4, 2020

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:



October 11: Exodus 32:1-14
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

Or Isaiah 25:1-9
Psalm 23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

October 18: Exodus 33:12-23
Psalm 99

Or Isaiah 45:1-7
Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13)
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

Our Church Calendar

October 4—10, 2020

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

Today 10:00 a.m. Worship—Facebook
11:00 a.m. Fellowship
12:00 p.m. Small Group Ministry
6:00 p.m. Senior High Youth Group

Monday 10:00 a.m. Woman's Association

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship
1:30 p.m. Small Group Ministry
6:00 p.m. Church Council

Wednesday 10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Adult Ed

Thursday 2:30 p.m. Prayerful Playgroup