

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



***"If anyone is poor among you, do not be hardhearted  
or tightfisted toward them. Rather, be openhanded  
and freely lend them whatever they need."***

—Deuteronomy 15:7-8

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

October 18, 2020

Creative Worship

10:00 a.m.

## *Care for the Poor*

PRELUDE

*Westminster Abbey*  
*(Christ is Made the Sure Foundation)*

Richard Proulx  
(©1993 Augsburg Fortress)

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

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

Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor..."

Those who are poor in resources.

Those who are poor in possessions.

Those who are poor in spirit.

Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hunger..."

Those who hunger for bread.

Those who hunger for connection.

Those who hunger for justice.

Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hunger...

for they will be filled."

Jesus said, "Blessed are those who are poor...

for theirs is the Kin-dom of God."

Let us come together,

as the community of Christ,

to be filled, and to fill,

to help build the world – the Kin-dom,

we all long to live in.

**Let us pray:**

Father and Mother God,  
your son Jesus was born among us  
poor, humble, and hungry.  
When he came of age he declared  
that you had sent him...  
to proclaim release for the captive,  
to offer liberty for the oppressed,  
to bring good news to the poor.

Open our eyes and our hearts and our hands  
to honor Jesus by declaring the same...  
by welcoming him in those who are hungry and thirsty,  
in all who are abandoned and lonely,  
in all who are poor in body and in spirit.

Be present with your church, O God,  
as we respond to your call.  
Sharing our bread,  
sharing our homes,  
sharing our resources,  
sharing our hearts with our kin.

Be present with us now, O God,  
as we pray the words that Jesus taught us...

**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

*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

James 2:1-10, 14-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

MISSION MESSAGE

"Care for the Poor"

SPECIAL MUSIC

*My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

arr. Cathy Moglebust

Wendy Valeri, bells

(©2020 Choristers Guild)

Michael Havay, piano

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERING INVITATION AND MISSION MOMENT

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

*The Lord Bless You*

Peter C. Lutkin/

Arr. Ellen Jane Lorenz

(©1957 Lorenz Publishing 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](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 Paul G. Janssen,  
***Prayerful Preparation: Living God, Renew Us.***

## 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

Wendy Valeri

Kathy Johnson

Marilyn Gibson

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Bell Choir Director

Liturgist

Church School Coordinator

**THE END 68 HOURS OF HUNGER FOOD DRIVE-BY** has been rescheduled for Friday, October 23 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., and Saturday, October 24 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. For more information please visit our SOS page: <https://www.ccamherst.org/sos/>

**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. Packing is done inside with just your group. If you are interested in this hands-on mission opportunity, please reach out to Nancy Protzmann ([uvmcats84@gmail.com](mailto:uvmcats84@gmail.com) or 603-321-7099) for more details on how you can help, or visit the SOS section on our website: <https://www.ccamherst.org/sos/>

**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!

**LEVI SUNDAY** has been scheduled for November 8, 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. Many hands make light work!

### Our Church Calendar

**October 18—24, 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
	6:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	Woman's Association
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Men's Fellowship
	7:00 p.m.	Diaconate
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday Morning Adult Ed
	6:00 p.m.	Middle High Youth Group
Thursday	2:30 p.m.	Prayerful Playgroup
	7:00 p.m.	Saying Their Names

**CHURCH SCHOOL:** Today's lesson, *Paying Taxes*, comes from Matthew 22:15-22. In the time of the Roman Empire, Jesus was asked, "Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?" No matter which way Jesus answered the question, Yes or No, there would be a problem. Jesus said, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's." (Matthew 22:21) A perspective would possibly be that we know what is expected from us to God and we know what is expected from us to our government. However, there is another side to the story: when we lack an answer to a question, ask God. The Jews were in conflict with the rulers, the Roman Empire. They sought an answer to their question and they turned to Jesus for the answer. As the Jews did, so should we. When in any conflict, we can go to God for an answer. It might not come immediately. But in the short term, we ask ourselves, "What would Jesus do?"

The Nashua **CROP Walk** is a virtual walk throughout October. To register your family, use the link to our official CROP Walk page (with the Greater Nashua Crop Walk): <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/nashuanh/Team/View/139841/Congregational-Church-of-Amherst>

### Financial Summary

(as of September 30, 2020)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$177,173	\$138,276	\$38,897
Expenses	\$121,258	\$130,732	\$( 9,475)
Net Income	\$ 55,915	\$ 7,543	\$48,372

*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).*

Adult Ed Series

## A NEW Look at the OLD Testament



Wednesday, 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. This series has 24 episodes, which we'll watch from October to June, meeting every first and third Wednesday. All are welcome! Please RSVP to [pastormaureen@ccamherst.org](mailto: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>.

**CHRISTMAS GIFT DRIVES:** Due to COVID, our partner organizations have made some changes, with differing due dates. We will be rolling out the Christmas Gift drives in stages, based on the organization's deadlines.

Our first program is the SHARE Gift Drive for children (and some single adults). Last year SHARE served 422 children and many single adults through their Christmas drive – we are excited to help them again this year! SHARE is only requesting donations of gift cards this year, rather than specific gift items. The gift cards will then be used by the families to purchase the specific gifts. The World Service team has pre-purchased these gift cards through our SUCCESS program, to help both SHARE and the church at the same time! We will be using SignUPGenius for people to sign up. Please visit our Christmas Drives page for more information: <https://www.ccamherst.org/christmasgifts/>

**PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH:** We'd like to let our hard working, caring, and inspiring pastors know how much we appreciate them! It has been especially trying during these crazy times and we are so grateful for their dedication and creativity.

**Pastor Maureen and Pastor Kate**, in your spiritual duties you are not only our pastors, but also our advisors, our advocates, our teachers, and our friends. **THANK YOU** for always going above and beyond to fulfill each and every one of these roles!

**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/>

**REOPENING INFORMATION AVAILABLE:** Our ad hoc Reopening Team has been hard at work thinking through and putting in place plans for our congregation to regather in person for worship and small group meetings.

Are you wondering 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.

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

October 18:	Exodus 33:12-23 Psalm 99
<b><i>Or</i></b>	Isaiah 45:1-7 Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13) 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Matthew 22:15-22
October 25:	Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
<b><i>Or</i></b>	Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 Psalm 1 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 Matthew 22:34-46





## Special Opportunities for Service

**End 68 Hours of Hunger Drive-By Food Drive:** Friday, Oct. 23 from 4 to 6 p.m., and Saturday, Oct. 24 from 9 to 11 a.m. in front of the church. Collection items include oatmeal packets, canned pasta, cereal (not mini size please), stove top stuffing, canned vegetables, individually wrapped snacks (granola bars, single serving bags of crackers, chips, or cookies, etc.) For more information contact Nancy Protzmann.

**Virtual CROP Walk:** Tie on your sneakers and walk or contribute to the CCA **Virtual CROP Walk**, Oct. 1-31. Walk individually or with family and friends and support the hungry. For details, visit <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/nashuanh/Team/View/139841/Congregational-Church-of-Amherst>, or contact Craig Richardson for more information.

**Neighbors In Need:** This is a special UCC mission offering during the month of October that supports ministries of justice. Grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities.

**Good with Instagram or Twitter?** We are hoping to expand our social media presence by starting a church Instagram and possibly Twitter account. This should be a low time commitment and something easily done from wherever you choose! If interested please contact Kay Steeves or Jeanne Neverisky.

**This is just a short list—there are many more opportunities for both special requests and ongoing needs. Visit our website for more information:**

<https://www.ccamherst.org/sos/>

*Sunday, October 18, 2020*

## ***Lead the Way***

***No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love.***

—Nelson Mandela

What would the world look like without racism? That is a question, we believe, that everyone needs to be asking of themselves and others. Not only asking it, but also living it. I know the easy answer is to say there will always be racism. But we do not want nor can we accept the easy path. We want the righteous path, the path that Jesus took when He “had to go through Samaria,” John 4:4. We want more than the easy answer, we want pathways that lead to a nation without racism. It will take us being conscious of our own feelings and making a consistent effort to change how we think and talk about fellow human beings. We cannot stop there; we need to listen to what others are saying and be courageous enough to say it is not acceptable when any kind of racism is voiced. It is saying with an open and loving heart that we each need to think out of love and respect for all. Let ourselves become aware of our own biases that limit our capacity to love one another. It has to start somewhere, we at Back Bay Mission (BBM) and Gulf Coast Housing Initiative (GCHI) say it will start with us and we hope that you in your organizations, churches, and businesses will lead the way to create non-racist communities. Teaching love is the way to change the world one person at a time.

Reprinted from *The Changing Tides: Summer 2020*, a newsletter from Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, MS.