

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



*“A wise owl sat on an oak,
the more he saw the less he spoke,
the less he spoke the more he heard.
Why aren’t we like the wise old bird?”*

—Charles M. Schulz

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

November 8, 2020

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

The Ash Grove
(Let All Things Now Living)

Frank Stoldt
(©2000 Augsburg Fortress)

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

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

God of Holy Wisdom,
we are seekers on the way to a deeper understanding and a wider vision.
We live in a time of information overload and opinion presented as fact,
but in the midst of it all we long to hear your voice.
We long for your Wisdom, O God –
cutting through the noise and showing us how to live,
and how to love.

Wise Creator, we gather this morning in places near and far,
to acquire wisdom from your Word,
from your Spirit,
and from one another.
We gather so that Wisdom may call out to us,
reaching into the shadows
and beckoning us into the light.
We gather to step into the deeper, richer, Wisdom-filled life
that you long for us to have.

Create a space within us,
to hear your Word spoken in our hearts this morning.
May we hear your Wisdom call,
and grant us the courage to respond.

Let us pray:

O Wise and Mighty God, you were born into this world in the form of a vulnerable child; you teach us that the last are first and the first, last; you lead us on a way to new life that leads through death. Truly your wisdom is different than ours! Meet us in this place and teach us your wisdom and lift us up with your power; give us joy to receive it fully and courage to live it truly.

May your Spirit move among us now, O God, in this sanctuary and wherever we are gathered,
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

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
verses 1 & 4 only

No. 263

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-20

Wisdom is radiant and unfading,
and she is easily discerned by those who love her,
and is found by those who seek her.
She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.
One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty,
for she will be found sitting at the gate.
To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding,
and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care,
because she goes about seeking those worthy of her,
and she graciously appears to them in their paths,
and meets them in every thought.

The beginning of wisdom is the most sincere desire for instruction,
and concern for instruction is love of her,
and love of her is the keeping of her laws,
and giving heed to her laws is assurance of immortality,
and immortality brings one near to God;
so the desire for wisdom leads to a kingdom.

SERMON

"Word to the Wise"

ANTHEM

Be Thou My Vision
Sara Phelps, soprano
Michael Havay, piano

Alice Parker
(Hinshaw Music Inc.)

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

With joyous praise we dedicate this offering, O God, acknowledging our responsibility to share your resources in our love for all your people. In gratitude for the gifts you have given us, we pay it forward to others. We thank you for the wisdom and insight we have received, as we use these gifts to live out the gospel in the world, in Jesus' name. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

Fanfares on "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Martin Luther/
arr. Robert Lau
(©2013 Lorenz Publishing Co.)

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:



November 15: Judges 4:1-7
Psalm 123
Or Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

November 22: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 100
Or Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46



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 Literature & Liturgy,
<https://jesusscribbles.wordpress.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
 Beth Secor

Ministers to the World
 Senior Pastor
 Associate Pastor
 Director of Music
 Organist/Accompanist
 Liturgist

TODAY IS LEVI SUNDAY: Your help is needed! Join us at 11:30 a.m. for outdoor chores as we prepare our grounds for the coming winter. Bring rakes and tools to work outside. Many hands make light work!

THANK YOU to all who have purchased gift cards for our SHARE Christmas Gift Drive. Your generosity is greatly appreciated! We do have a few more left, with the deadline of Nov. 12 fast approaching.

We are also kicking off our other Christmas gift drives this week, with a deadline of Dec. 4. Think of it as picking 'virtual stars' off the tree! These are gifts you will shop for either online or at the stores of your choice.

Details for all of our gift drives can be found on our Christmas Gift Drive webpage: <https://www.ccamherst.org/christmasgifts/>

Questions? Contact Nancy Protzmann uvmcats84@gmail.com

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for November include pancake mix and syrup, condiments, cooking sauces and seasonings, cooking oils, jelly, and cold cereal. 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!

CREATIVE WORSHIP NEXT WEEK: We'll come together as the community of Christ to worship God with special music, interactive liturgy and an engaging message. Our worship theme is *Share Earthly and Spiritual Resources*. As we prepare to celebrate the annual Thanksgiving holiday, we'll lift up the "giving" that we're called to do in addition to offering our prayers of gratitude. We hope you can join us!

Financial Summary (as of October 31, 2020)

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference
Income	\$195,678	\$167,844	\$ 27,834
Expenses	\$150,101	\$163,648	\$(13,547)
Net Income	\$ 45,577	\$ 4,197	\$ 41,381

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).

CHURCH SCHOOL: Today's lesson is *Ten Bridesmaids* from Matthew 25:1-13. **Be prepared** is one message in our church school lesson, and **Make Good Choices** is the second message. Adults certainly know the meaning of Matthew's passage. Adults are charged with teaching our youngest. Children are taught with tangible lessons. These lessons depend on examples and using every moment as a teaching moment. (Strike while the iron is hot.) At home, at school, in the playground, in church, children are ripe for the lesson from Matthew. **Live every day as Jesus wants you to live it.** WWJD (What Would Jesus Do?) Corny yet applicable.

Bible Recipients: Our third-grade children are to receive their own Bible today at 11:30 a.m., social distancing at the front of our church. Congratulations go to Owen Davis, Nicholas Riley and Mya Stewart as they participate in their transition from the *Spark Story Bible* to the *Spark Bible*, a tradition to foster understanding of the Bible's composition and Christian foundation. Metaphor becomes clear as youngsters' ability to grasp the meaning matures.

To sign up for **Brown Bag Lessons**, go to the church school section on our website: <https://www.ccamherst.org/church-school/>. Use the Sign Up button to record your family name and the comments section should contain your email address.

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.

Our Church Calendar

November 8—14, 2020

Most events are taking place virtually. Links are sent out directly by email, and a list of recurring meetings with their links can be found on the member section of our website.

Today	10:00 a.m.	Worship—Facebook
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship
	11:30 a.m.	Levi Sunday
	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
	7:00 p.m.	Trustees of the Facility
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	4:00 p.m.	Communications Team
Thursday	2:30 p.m.	Prayerful Playgroup

Announcing
Sleigh Bell Marketplace

New WA Online Auction, Nov. 10 - 30

***Christmas shopping
at your fingertips***

Holiday & home decor,
crafts, antiques, art, jewelry, toys,
birch houses, gift baskets,
a stay at a vacation cottage,

And so much more !!!

Easy to use auction site
with photos
of the more than 70 items;
something for everyone !

When auction opens go to
CCAmherst website, then 'News and Events' for link
Payment by credit card at close of auction
Winners will be notified of pick-up times



Sunday, November 8, 2020

Christmas Gift Drives

The holiday season is fast approaching and the World Service team will be hosting our annual Christmas Gift drives again this year. Due to this crazy pandemic, all of the signups for our Christmas Drives will be virtual. There are several ways you can help, both with gift cards and personal shopping.



SHARE: 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! **This drive ends on November 12** to allow SHARE the time to get the gift cards to the families so they can do their own holiday shopping this year.

We also have several “hands on” drives that will be taking place starting in early November and will end in early December. These drives will provide you the opportunity to shop for specific gifts, either on-line or in stores of your choosing:

Crestwood Nursing Home: As we do every year, we will be purchasing gifts for residents from their wish lists.

Operation Christmas Joy: Bethany Christian Services is providing ‘Family Gift Boxes’ to foster families. We are hoping to fill 20 of these boxes for deserving foster kids and their families.

Anne-Marie House: We have a special item for each child currently being housed by Anne-Marie House. If you like purchasing something specific for a child, this is the drive for you!

Details can be found on our Christmas Gift Drive website page:

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