

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



*"Don't ask what the world needs.
Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it.
Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."*

— Howard Thurman

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

November 15, 2020

Creative Worship

10:00 a.m.

“Share Earthly and Spiritual Resources”

PRELUDE

Sing to the Lord of Harvest

Johann Steurlein/
arr. Dennis Eliot

(© 1994 Lorenz Publishing Co.)

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

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

If we only have a few moments to spare,

God will use our gifts of time.

If we only have one or two special aptitudes,

God will use our gifts of talents.

If we only have a few dollars to give,

God will use our gifts of treasure.

If we only have our story to share,

God will use our gifts of experience.

If we only have ourselves to give,

God will use our gifts of presence.

In a season of abundance or a season of scarcity,

we find ways to give.

And God invites and welcomes our giving.

Let us pray:

Gracious and Generous God, you gave your entire being in creating this planet and all living creatures upon it. You gave all of yourself in sending us prophets and messengers. You gave all of yourself when sending your son Jesus the Christ to show us how to live and love. You have poured all of yourself and your unconditional love upon each and every one of us. Meet us in this time, in this space, and teach us how to share all that you given us.

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—Sharing Our Spiritual Resources

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

HYMN

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

SERMON

"Share Earthly and Spiritual Resources"

ANTHEM

The Lord Is My Shepherd

Wendy Valeri, handbells

Michael Havay, piano

Derek K. Hakes

(©From the Top Music)

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR OFFERING—SHARING OUR EARTHLY RESOURCES

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Generous God, receive these gifts we offer – and in return give us open hands.

Fill our lives – and give us open hearts.

Remind us of the abundance we have – and give us open minds.

Push us to welcome all people – and give us open doors.

Send us to serve all in your name – and give us open arms.

Amen.

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

Old Hundredth (Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow)

Piet Post

(©1966 Augsburg Publishing Co.)

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:



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

November 29: Isaiah 64:1-9
First Sunday
of Advent Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

Current Reopening Information: 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 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

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obtained from One License with license #A-731944.***

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granted by From the Top Music. The church claims no
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***Portions of our liturgy are adapted from
Michelle Torigian – Be The Church resources.***

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church	Ministers to the World
Rev. Maureen R. Frescott	Senior Pastor
Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy	Associate Pastor
Sara L. Phelps	Director of Music
Michael Havay	Organist/Accompanist
Wendy Valeri	Bell Choir Director
Bill Swift	Liturgist
Marilyn Gibson	Church School Coordinator
Our Church School Children	

CHRISTMAS GIFT DRIVES CONTINUE:

While we aren't gathering in person, we are still thankful to be hosting Christmas Gift drives for several organizations, using online signups. 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.

Signup deadline is December 4. Details for all of our gift drives can be found on our Christmas Gift Drive webpage: <https://www.ccamherst.org/christmasgifts/>

A huge thank you to all who supported our SHARE Christmas Gift Card Drive. Your generosity is greatly appreciated! The gift cards are now with SHARE, who will distribute them to the families.

SAVE THE DATE: Red Cross Blood Drive, December 30, 12:00 to 5:00 p.m.

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!

Our Church Calendar

November 15—21, 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
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship
	1:00 p.m.	Middle High Youth Group
	11:30 a.m.	Levi Sunday
	6:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	Woman's Association
	6:00 p.m.	Budget & Finance Team
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Men's Fellowship
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday Morning Adult Ed
Thursday	2:30 p.m.	Prayerful Playgroup
	7:00 p.m.	Saying Their Names
Friday		Dillon/Marchwicz Wedding

CHURCH SCHOOL: Today's lessons are *Parable of the Talents* (Matthew 25:14-30) and *Be The Church - Share Earthly and Spiritual Resources*. Two servants are each given the same amount of money by their overseer. One invests it, the other hides it. The investment grows while the hidden money does not. Metaphorically speaking, God has given us talents and he wants us to share them.

Share Your Talents—Pay It Forward: One smile will generate two, that generate four, and so on. One kind word will generate two, will generate four... A joke can make one laugh, that is passed on to another... A phone call or text message to ask "how are you" can be uplifting... **And so much more.**

Advent Wreaths are a way to prepare for the promised Messiah! **Families** – brown bags will be created for you and your children to craft an Advent Wreath. They will be in a bin labeled "Advent Wreath" outside the church entrance. Each bag contains the materials necessary to make the wreath (no flammables necessary), with directions. Feel free to pick one up at your convenience any day starting Monday, November 23.

Financial Summary
(as of October 31, 2020)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
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).

Adult Ed Series

**A NEW Look at the
OLD Testament**



Wednesday, November 18
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 to receive the Zoom link, or access the link on our church website in the members section under "Wednesday Adult Ed."

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

