

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



*“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”*

—Dr. Seuss

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

November 22, 2020

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

George J. Elvey/
arr. John Scriveyner
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GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

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

We gather to celebrate, to joyfully pray to our God!
No matter where we are,
No matter who we are with,
No matter if we are outside or in,
From our kitchen counters or home offices,
Our dorm rooms or bedrooms,
In this sanctuary or on the other side of the globe,
By gathering, we have made this place holy.
Together, let us share our praises and thankfulness.
Come, let us enter into this sacred space with praise.

We come to praise our God, the Holy God always and forever,
The Eternal One from whom all things come.
The God that protects us and heals us,
Guides us and guards us,
Holds us and challenges us.
Come, let us enter into this sacred space with thanks.

O God, we are your children, created by and with your love.
Come, let us enter into this sacred space with joy and delight.

Let us pray:

God, Father of the poor,
your Son Jesus was born among us
poor, humble and dependent.
Open our eyes and our hearts and our hands
to honor him now as our Lord

by welcoming him in those who are hungry and thirsty,
in all who are abandoned and lonely,
in refugees, in the poor and the sick.

Let our love become free and spontaneous,
like the tenderness you have shown us in your Son.
Welcome us in the everlasting Kin-dom
prepared for us through Christ Jesus our Lord.

And may your Spirit move among us now, Oh 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

We Gather Together

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 25:31-46

'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

SERMON

“We’re All In This Together”

ANTHEM

With a Voice of Singing
Chancel Choir

Martin Shaw

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Good Shepherd, who leads and guides us through all the trials and tribulations of our lives, we bring these gifts to celebrate the ministries of justice and hope in which our church is involved. Be with us and cause us to grow in our faith and our service. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God

Johann Crüger/
arr. Gregg Sewell
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The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:



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

December 6: Isaiah 40:1-11
Second Sunday Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
of Advent 2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8



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).

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.

Grounded in God’s Love—Serving Neighbors Near and Far—Welcoming to All

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PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Sandy Demarest

Sue Werst

Doug Topliffe

Ministers to the World

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Liturgist

Children's Time

Offering

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given in thanksgiving for the lives of John and Veronica Dmyterko Varanka, and Allyn and Edith Lucchini Chabot from Mike, Sally and Cassie Varanka, and Scott and Sasha Mindel. They are also given with prayers and hope for all while celebrating this very different Thanksgiving—that we may all have reasons to be thankful.

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.camherst.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.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE: Save the date—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 22—28, 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 6:00 p.m. Senior High Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m. Woman's Association
Tuesday	9:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship
Wednesday	9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting



The Congregational Church of Amherst
Woman's Association
Online Auction
November 10—30

Auction Site: 32auctions.com/waauction

Bid on over 90 items:

Art—Themed Gift Baskets—Crafts—Jewelry
Toys and Games—Antiques—Holiday Décor
Golf Outing—Scenic Helicopter Ride

CHURCH SCHOOL: From Matthew 25:32, *“All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats...”* Today's lesson is *Sheep and Goats* (Matthew 25:31-46). Jesus is the shepherd of sheep, sheep are those who follow. So, goats are those who do not follow. Sheep, those who follow in the footsteps of Jesus, have fed the hungry, given water to the thirsty, welcomed strangers, clothed the naked, and so forth. The faithful are role models for our children. Jesus calls the children in Mark 10: 14, “...Let the children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.”

ADVENT WREATHS: Our church school invites all families to create an Advent wreath. Materials are provided along with directions in plastic bags in the labeled bin outside of the church entrance.

Advent Calendar of 25 cards—Creativity is the name of the activity. 25 cards with the Christmas story are offered to families for their children, as we prepare for the birth of Jesus. Cards can be fixed to a poster (decorated by children), can be put in chronological/number order, then followed throughout Advent, hung on an imitation Christmas tree, and so on. Pick up your packet in the Advent wreath bin.

Sunday, November 22, 2020