

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



*“The Holy Spirit bothers us. Because it moves us, makes us walk, pushes the Church to go forward. And we are like Peter at the Transfiguration: 'Ah, how wonderful it is to be here like this, all together!' ... But don't bother us. We want to domesticate the Holy Spirit. And that's no good. Because (the Spirit) is God... that wind which comes and goes and you don't know where... the one who gives us consolation and strength to move forward. And this bothers us. It's so much nicer to be comfortable.”*

– Pope Francis

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

February 14, 2021

Transfiguration Sunday

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

*Festival Prelude on "Old 113th"  
(I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath)*

Gilbert Martin

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

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

The mountain top  
the shining face  
the glowing clothes  
the voice of God speaking from the cloud  
the commandments etched in stone

Sometimes God shows up  
in ways we cannot deny  
in a place we can go  
a light we can see  
a voice we can hear  
a stone we can touch  
Sometimes

Sometimes  
there is the veil  
the overshadowing, terrifying cloud  
the questions  
the appearing and disappearing  
the excitement  
the wondering  
the silence

Sometimes God shows up  
in ways we cannot deny.  
Always God shows up  
somehow.

So we have shown up here, now.  
May God give us eyes to see.

Let us pray:

God, you bring us together in this place,  
we come to be fed, to be renewed, to seek understanding.  
God, you challenge us in this place,  
we embrace the challenge, trusting that through challenge we grow in faith.  
God, you are revealed in this place,  
sometimes in shining glory, sometimes in tears and struggle.  
God as we worship in this place,  
refresh, renew, and challenge us so that we would see your awe-someness.  
May your Spirit move among us now, 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

*Open My Eyes, That I May See*

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 9:2-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"

Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

SERMON

"Seeing Jesus"

ANTHEM

*The Gift of Love*  
Chancel Choir

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Living God, your love for us is so unfathomable. Open our ears to hear the cries of your children in need. Open our eyes to see human injustice. Open our hearts to feel compassion in all circumstances. Continue to increase our willingness to give so that we may lead lives fully focused on ministry to others. We place these offerings upon your altar in gratitude for your guidance, your grace, and your love. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

*Alleluia Toccata*

Fenton Groden

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

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**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. 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.

**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***

## 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

Jana Howe

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Liturgist

**BLANKETS FOR BRUCE:** These are uncertain times for many of us, and for our neighbors around the world. But as we come together, people in shelters, those visiting food banks and many others have received Church World Service (CWS) Blankets, Hygiene Kits and more. Even during the coronavirus pandemic and following emergencies, such as Hurricane Laura.

The Church World Service Blankets+ program was one very near and dear to Bruce Beckley's heart. As a congregation, our heart for mission remains strong. It is our opportunity to honor Bruce, help make a difference, and change lives.

As a church family, let's join together as we take up a 'Blankets for Bruce' offering online. Please visit our church SOS page for more information:

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

**SHARE FOOD PANTRY** requests for February include canned fruit, flour, boxed cake mixes, baking supplies, sugar, 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!

**ASH WEDNESDAY** is February 17. Join us online for our virtual Ash Wednesday service beginning at 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENTATIONS** from last week's Preliminary Budget and the recent Capital Campaign Zoom meetings are available on our website in the members section.

### Financial Summary

(as of January 31, 2021)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$292,322	\$256,551	\$ 35,770
Expenses	\$244,099	\$261,808	\$( 17,709)
Net Income	\$ 48,222	\$( 5,257)	\$ 53,479

*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: *Love God, Love Others*** (1 Corinthians 13): "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

**Love** explained and modeled is key to its understanding. How many times have I heard love being used in fashion, décor, hobbies, school, food, etc. knowing it is not love? Are our children understanding the meaning of love? God's love is unconditional, love for our neighbor is the same.

**Reminder**, church school teachers provide lessons to support guardians, parents, and church friends. If you would like to receive the Brown Bag lessons please record your family name at SignUpGenius.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4caea62ea1f8c25-church1>.

**DO YOU DO INSTAGRAM?** We have opened a page there, so do come and check it out! You'll need to create an Instagram account of your own first, on your smartphone by downloading the app, or on your PC. Then you can "follow" our page: ccamherstnh

You'll find some familiar faces, and its a great way to stay in touch with what's going on.

## Our Church Calendar

February 14—20, 2021

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 in 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
	4:00 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.	Capital Campaign Steering Team
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	<i>A New Look at the Old Testament</i>
	6:00 p.m.	Pastoral Relations Team
	7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Service
Thursday	10:00 a.m.	Prayerful Playgroup
	7:00 p.m.	Saying Their Names

*Sunday, February 14, 2021*

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



February 17:  
*Ash Wednesday* Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 *or Isaiah 58:1-2*  
Psalm 51:1-17  
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 21:  
*First Sunday in Lent* Genesis 9:8-17  
Psalm 25:1-10  
1 Peter 3:18-22  
Mark 1:9-15

February 28:  
*Second Sunday in Lent* Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
Psalm 22:23-31  
Romans 4:13-25  
Mark 8:31-38 *or Mark 9:2-9*