

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



“There is great pain and suffering in the world. But the pain hardest to bear is your own. Once you have taken up that cross, you will be able to see clearly the crosses that others have to bear, and you will be able to reveal to them their own ways to joy, peace, and freedom.”

—Henri Nouwen

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

February 28, 2020

Second Sunday In Lent

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

Not My Will, But Thine

Gerald Peterson

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP and THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lent calls us to journey, this and every day,
following Jesus wherever he leads us.

**Lent calls us to journey:
to where God promises to make our world new,
to make us new.**

Lent calls us to faithful living,
to trust the One who gives us life.

**Lent calls each of us to take up our cross,
to trust the One who bears it with us.**

Lent calls us to worship together,
to tell future generations the good news.

**Lent calls us to love kindness and to act justly,
to bring God's hope to all people.**

Lent calls us to journey with God.

**Let us worship God, who walks with us,
this and every day.**

We recognize God's Spirit 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.

LENTEN PRAYER OF CONFESSION and WORDS OF ASSURANCE

We hear the words from Jesus:
"Take up your cross and follow me."

These words scare us.
We know what taking up a cross meant for him.
We do not feel able to sacrifice our lives.
We are not even ready on most days
to sacrifice smaller things for the sake of the Kingdom.

Today O God we confess our timidity,
our weaknesses,
our fears,
and our hesitations.

As we gather today—
as we look at the cross in front of us,
as we remember the crosses
that marked our foreheads on Ash Wednesday,
such a short time ago,
as we think of the Cross that Lent calls us to journey towards
may we find strength in new places deep within our hearts.
May we find courage, hope,
and the peace to really follow Jesus.
May worship today help us
to begin the Lenten journey
towards finding our crosses
and figuring out how to bear them.

Hear our prayers, forgiving God,
as you remind us of the grace that covers our human failings
and offer us the endurance to continue on this journey,
as you create us anew.
Amen and Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

HYMN

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days
verses 1, 3 & 4 only

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 8:31-38

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

SERMON

"The Cross We Bear"

ANTHEM

God So Loved the World

Sara Phelps, soprano

Michael Havay, piano

John Stainer

arr. John Leavitt

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

For life sustaining gifts that we so often take for granted – for shelter, food, and warmth; for your steadfast love that awakens us and rescues us from our wandering ways; for your word that guides and heals us – we give you thanks, gracious God. As we invest a part of all you entrust to us to further the ministries of this church, may we show others the immeasurable riches of your grace. Make this church a beacon of hope for our community and our world. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

Allegretto

George Böhm



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. 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.

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

Tim Wiegand

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Liturgist

FEELING CONNECTED?? Join us TODAY for a Zoom forum! There is much to be celebrated about 2020 and early 2021, despite the challenges of COVID-19! As detailed in the recent Good News letter from Stewardship, "we pivoted...extended our reach...kept going...[and] we are THE CHURCH in the World!"

All this is due to the energy, dedication, and creativity of our staff, our church volunteers, and of course your financial support. As we plan for our next fiscal year which starts June 1, we need your input and continued support. Stewardship is sponsoring informal discussions via Zoom. These small groups will allow us to hear about programming plans, updates on the capital campaign, to ask questions and offer input to the team, and most importantly, to be connected!

Sign up using this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040e48a8ac2aa4ff2-feeling>.

Here are the dates and times: Sunday, Feb. 28 at 11:30 a.m., Thursday, Mar. 4 at 7:00 p.m., Sunday, Mar. 7 at 11:30 a.m., and Thursday, Mar. 11 at 7:00 p.m. We are using the same Zoom link we have for our Sunday morning Fellowship time. It was sent by email and can also be found in the members section of our website.

LENT AND CHURCH SCHOOL: Lent is forty days that began with Ash Wednesday. Preparing for Easter is a spiritual journey of reconciliation and mindfulness in our wilderness. The March *Spire* holds Lenten activities that can be completed at home. These are meant to give parents, guardians, relatives and friends the opportunities to share faith moments that nurture our Christianity.

CHURCH SCHOOL BROWN BAG LESSONS:

Forgive Often is the March theme, supported with creative lessons, including meaningful activities prepared by our church school staff. SignUpGenius is waiting for you to sign up if you have not already done so: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4caea62ea1f8c25-church1>

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-731944.

Portions of the liturgy have been adapted from: Thom Shuman, and posted on Lectionary Liturgies, and Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo, and posted on LiturgyLink.

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!

WE'RE ON 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.

LENTEN BOOK SERIES: For five Wednesday evenings during Lent we will gather virtually to discuss writer **Anne Lamott's** wonderful book: ***Almost Everything: Notes on Hope***. With Lamott's engaging wit and insight as our guide, we'll set off in search of hope, even if uncertainty seems to surround us: in the news, in our families, and in ourselves. Divided into short, easy-to-read chapters, the book explores topics like aging, grief, unplugging from the world, the names and nature of God, and how we might learn to live with and love those who think, believe, and vote so differently than we do.

Pastor Maureen and Pastor Kate will alternate as facilitators of the sessions. The book is available for purchase for \$15 on Amazon. Each session will focus on three chapters of the book beginning with the Prelude. If you're unable to read the book join us anyway! We'll pull out quotes and passages to seed our discussion and all are welcome to participate!

RSVP to pastormaureen@ccamherst.org to receive the Zoom link, or find it on our church website in the member's 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).

Sunday, February 28, 2021

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:



March 7: Exodus 20:1-17
Third Sunday in Lent Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

March 14: Numbers 21:4-9
Fourth Sunday in Lent Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

Our Church Calendar

February 28—March 6, 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 |
| | 11:30 a.m. | Feeling Connected |
| | 4:00 p.m. | Senior High Youth Group |
| Monday | 10:00 a.m. | Woman's Association |
| Tuesday | 9:00 a.m. | Men's Fellowship |
| | 1:30 p.m. | Small Group Ministry |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Church Council |
| Wednesday | 9:00 a.m. | Wednesday Morning Adult Ed |
| | 6:30 p.m. | Lenten Book Series |
| Thursday | 10:00 a.m. | Prayerful Playgroup |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Feeling Connected |