

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



“There is a reason that Jesus says, “Love your enemies.” It is this: that love has within it a redemptive power. And there is a power there that eventually transforms individuals. Just keep being friendly to that person. Just keep loving them, and they can’t stand it too long. Oh, they react in many ways in the beginning. They react with guilt feelings, and sometimes they’ll hate you a little more... but just keep loving them. And by the power of your love they will break down under the load. That’s love, you see. It is redemptive, and this is why Jesus says love.”

— Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

March 14, 2021

Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

O Could I Speak the Matchless Worth

W. A. Mozart/
arr. Marilyn Thompson

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP and THE LORD'S PRAYER

Children of God, believe this –
God loved the world and gave us Jesus,
God loves the world and gave us life,
we are the beloved!
May the truth of this great love story,
shine through our worship today,
and renew our sense of calling.

So come, with your tiredness,
your frustrations and your discouragements;
come with your doubts, your fears,
and your longings;
come, to discover yet again
how God's love and mercy is revealed through Christ,
and through us.

Come, to be in community with God
and with all of us gathering in God's name,
to listen for the Word we need to hear,
to offer our prayers,
to sing our songs,
to renew our calling.

Children of God,
let us worship, together!

Gracious and loving God, we recognize your Spirit moving 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 (unison)

Our Creator God,
You have set before us the path
but we have wandered on our own
to try to find our way.

Sometimes we are like toddlers
and we hear your call and come back.

Other times, we are children testing boundaries,
ignoring your call until fear finally makes us look back.

And still other times we are full of youthful rebellion,
demanding to be cut loose and set free,
not knowing how much we still need
to seek your wisdom and guidance.

But most of all, too often we think we are adults
and have figured it all out and know our own way,
only to stumble and stray so far.

Remind us, parental God,
that we are always your children,
that we are never fully grown up in your sight,
that we always have much to learn.

Help us to seek you every day,
to acknowledge that we need your wisdom and guidance,
and help us to return to the path and walk with you.

Children of God, we are blessed because God's image resides deep within each of us.
So may we return God's blessing by the way we love others.
In the name of Christ,
who is our companion on this journey of faith, we pray. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

*HYMN

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

verses 1, 2, and 4

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
those he redeemed from trouble
and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

Some were sick through their sinful ways,
and because of their iniquities endured affliction;
they loathed any kind of food,
and they drew near to the gates of death.
Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress;
he sent out his word and healed them,
and delivered them from destruction.
Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.
And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices,
and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

SERMON

“God’s Redeemed”

ANTHEM

Wayfaring Stranger

Emily and Herb Archer
Jeanne and Mike Neverisky

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Colleen Cushing

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

O God, who has given us a vision of your will and your purposes, help us to use the resources we dedicate here to accomplish the work you would have us do. With joy, we bring the fruits of our labor, the work of our hands, the days of our lives for your special blessing. Send your Spirit into our midst to consecrate us anew in your service. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

Sortie

George Blake

*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:
Rev Mindi, posted on Rev-o-lution. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>, and
Ann Siddall, posted on the Uniting Church SA website.
<http://mrn.sa.uca.org.au/>*

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:



March 21:
Fifth Sunday in Lent Jeremiah 31:31-34
 Psalm 51:1-12 or
 Psalm 119:9-16
 Hebrews 5:5-10
 John 12:20-33

March 28:
Liturgy of the Palms Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
 Mark 11:1-11 or
 John 12:12-16

Liturgy of the Passion Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Psalm 31:9-16
 Philippians 2:5-11
 Mark 14:1-15:47 or
 Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)



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	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
Emily and Herb Archer	Musicians
Jeanne and Mike Neverisky	Musicians
David Deysher	Liturgist
Colleen Cushing	Deacon

EASTER OUTREACH: Each year the Diaconate passes a basket during worship to collect donations for gift cards/food baskets for families in our community to help provide a holiday meal and ongoing food support. We are “passing our Easter basket” virtually this year and the need is high for many during these stressful times. If you know of anyone within our community who may need support, please encourage them to contact Pastor Maureen or Pastor Kate. Serving our neighbors is a vital part of our ministry, and the pastors are there to help with the strictest of confidence.

Donate to the deacon’s Easter outreach through our website or by sending a check to the church with 'Easter Outreach' in the memo line.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for March 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!

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.

Financial Summary (as of February 28, 2021)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$318,228	\$286,120	\$ 32,108
Expenses	\$275,408	\$294,138	\$(18,730)
Net Income	\$ 42,820	\$(8,018)	\$ 50,838

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, March 14, 2021

CHURCH SCHOOL: *I remember—and do you—the times I felt sorrow for my actions and words. Sorrow and asking for forgiveness is the lesson in today's reading* (Numbers 21:4-9). When Moses led the Israelites through the wilderness, they were angry at both Moses and God. They were angry with their food. Recognizing their shamefulness, they appealed to God, through Moses, for forgiveness. Then, the people received God's graces.

Children are inflicted these days with great angst, socially removed, restricted leisure experiences, and strained family relationships. Anger can raise its ugly head, at which time forgiveness is the calming force. Once forgiven, the shame and sorrow bestow calm. We thank God for guidance.

EASTER LILY PLANTS will be arranged at the base of the altar, as has been our tradition for many years, even though this year's service will be virtual. About a dozen double lily plants are needed.

If you would like to donate a plant, please contact Andrea in the church office. Your Easter or memorial message will be listed in the bulletin, and the plants will be yours to take home after the service is recorded.

Plants are \$12 each and orders are due Palm Sunday, March 28. Please make your check payable to the Congregational Church of Amherst, with Easter lily noted on the memo line.

Our Church Calendar

March 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
	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.	Diaconate
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday Morning Adult Ed
	6:30 p.m.	Lenten Book Series
Thursday	10:00 a.m.	Prayerful Playgroup
	3:00 p.m.	Saying Their Names