

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



*“Someone I loved once gave me a box full of darkness.
It took me years to understand that this too, was a gift.”*

— Mary Oliver

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

March 28, 2021

Palm/Passion Sunday

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

*Prelude on "Ellacombe"
(Hosanna, Loud Hosanna)*

Alfred V. Fedak

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP and THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: The end of our journey is near.

People: We see the towers of Jerusalem; we hear the shouts of the crowd

Leader: We still have a distance to travel.

People: But the parade has begun. Let's rejoice and shout "Hosanna!"

Leader: Keep your eyes fixed on the road.

People: We march into Jerusalem with hope and with joy!

Leader: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

All: Hosanna in the highest!

With great joy we welcome you, Jesus, into our lives and into this new season of our world. The journey—of this past year, and of our lives to this point—has been long and we have longed to enter a new time, one that is ruled by redemptive power and love. Today we shout, Hosanna! For even now you come into our hearts and our lives, humbly, patiently, encouraging us to learn and grow, to embark on journeys of hope and healing. Open our hearts today to hear your words, as we sing praise to you: Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Fill us with the spirit of worship as we pray: **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.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 12:12-16

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord-- the King of Israel!" Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: "Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

HYMN

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Lord, today we honor you with our offerings, laying them before you like the crowds who waved palms and offered their coats to you centuries ago. Thank you for walking with us as we try to take the path of Christ, and for meeting our needs on the journey. Trusting you, we can share what we have with others. We do this joyfully, in Jesus' name, Amen.

ANTHEM

Pavane, Op. 50

Gabriel Fauré

Sue Werst, flute
Michael Havay, piano

PALM SUNDAY MESSAGE

"Living Holy Saturday"

THE PASSION NARRATIVE ACCORDING TO LUKE AND JOHN

Senior High Youth Group

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Crucifixus

Antonio Lotti/
arr. James Mansfield



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

*Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service
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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
 Sue Werst
 Kathy Johnson, Nye Hornor

Ministers to the World
 Senior Pastor
 Associate Pastor
 Director of Music
 Organist/Accompanist
 Musician
 Liturgists

MAUNDY THURSDAY: Worship with us virtually on April 1 at 7:00 p.m. Join us for a prayerful reflective service with special music, communion, and traditional Tenebrae readings by our Deacons to commemorate Jesus' last night with his disciples.

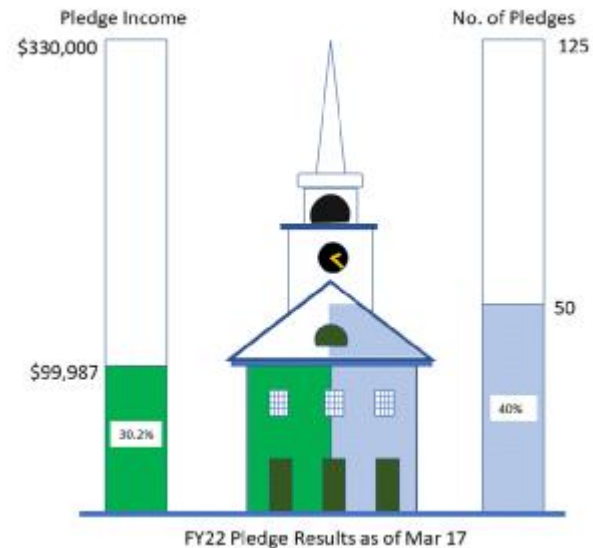
LAST CALL—EASTER LILY PLANTS will be arranged at the base of the altar, as has been our tradition for many years, even though this year's service will be virtual. About a dozen double lily plants are needed.

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 today**. Please make your check payable to the Congregational Church of Amherst, with Easter lily noted on the memo line.

ANNUAL REPORTS are due in to the church office by April 30.

FAITH PROMISE: Our new fiscal year **Stewardship Campaign** is ongoing. As of Friday, March 26, we have received pledges from 61 families, totaling \$145,077. Thanks to all that have responded so far. To those who are still considering your pledge, you can email your intents to Andrea at andrea@ccamherst.org, mail in your pledge intentions, call Andrea (673-3231) or go to the church website <https://www.ccamherst.org/stewardship-pledge/>.



CHURCH SCHOOL: *Spark Story Bible* reading pages 454-59 tells of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem. (Readings in the *Spark Bible*, Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, and Luke 19:28-40) What child does not like a parade, and parents can create a parade, waving homemade palms and shouting "Hosanna!" Add a celebratory phrase, "Here comes God's King," that introduce why Israelites were so happy and why. Mix up the parade using instruments for added engagement.



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](https://www.instagram.com/ccamherstnh). You'll find some familiar faces, and its a great way to stay in touch with what's going on.

Our Church Calendar

March 28—April 3, 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.	Cans for Cookies
Monday	10:00 a.m.	Woman's Association
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Men's Fellowship
	7:00 p.m.	World Service Team
Thursday	10:00 a.m.	Prayerful Playgroup
	3:00 p.m.	Saying Their Names
	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Service

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).



on Palm Sunday
March 28 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

After church on Palm Sunday, BOTH of our church's youth groups will be holding a food drive for End 68 Hours of Hunger.

In honor of the SHYG's traditional Palm Sunday Cookie Walk, we are calling this event **CANS FOR COOKIES**.

When you give food for End 68 Hours of Hunger, you get a package of cookies made special for you by our church's youth!

What to bring:

- Peanut Butter – 18 oz plastic
- Saltines / Graham Crackers**
- Canned Beef Stew
- Canned Pasta – Beefaroni, Ravioli**
- Canned Soup – 12-20 oz size
- Hormel Complete Meals
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Fruit Cups – 4 pack
- Granola Bars/Nutrition Bars
- Instant Flavored Rice or Noodles
- Instant Flavored Potatoes
- Tuna or Chicken or Pulled Pork – 10 oz or smaller cans
- Instant Oatmeal individual packets**
- pudding Cups – 4 pack

What not to bring:

- Anything in glass
- Anything over 1lb

End 68 Hours of Hunger is a state-wide organization with locations close to us in Nashua, Hollis, and Manchester. Established in NH in 2011, End 68 Hours of Hunger is a public not-for-profit effort to confront the approximately 68 hours of hunger that some school children experience between the free lunch they receive at school on Friday afternoon and the free breakfast they receive at school on Monday morning. Come on Sunday, March 28 to help the youth of our church give back to the youth in our community!

Questions? Ideas? Contact Pastor Kate at pastorkate@ccamherst.org.

Sunday, March 28, 2021



The Lectionary texts for Holy Week are:

March 28: <i>Liturgy of the Palms</i>	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Mark 11:1-11 or <i>John 12:12-16</i>
<i>Liturgy of the Passion</i>	Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Mark 14:1-15:47 or <i>Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)</i>
April 1: <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35
April 2: <i>Good Friday</i>	Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10:16-25 or <i>Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9</i> John 18:1-19:42
April 3: <i>Holy Saturday</i>	Job 14:1-4 or <i>Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24</i> Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16 1 Peter 4:1-8 Matthew 27:57-66 or <i>John 19:38-42</i>
April 4: <i>Easter Sunday</i>	Acts 10:34-43 or <i>Isaiah 25:6-9</i> Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or <i>Acts 10:34-43</i> John 20:1-18 or <i>Mark 16:1-8</i>