

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

## CARING FOR CREATION



*“God intends our care of Creation to reflect our love for the Creator.”*  
—John Stott

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

April 18, 2021

Creative Worship

10:00 a.m.

## *Protect the Environment*

PRELUDE

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

David Paxton

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

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

One: Whether we live in the mountains, by the sea, or on the plains,

**Many: We are a part of God's Creation.**

One: Whether our winter is warm, our summer is cool, or our fall and spring are bursting with color,

**Many: We are a part of God's Creation.**

One: Whether we live on the East Coast, West Coast or somewhere in between,

**Many: We are a part of God's Creation.**

One: Whether we live in urban dwellings, in suburban developments, or surrounded by a rural landscape,

**Many: We are a part of God's Creation.**

One: God declared that all of Creation is Good.

**Many: And we are to care for all of Creation.**

**All: Let us worship our Creator God!**

Let us pray:

God of earth, sky, and sea, Divine Painter of countrysides, sunsets, and seascapes, we stand in awe of your handiwork. From the mountain vistas of the west to the rich red deserts of the south, your work creates a sense of wonder within each of us. From the bracing snows of the north to the lush green forests of the east, your designs enliven us. As we celebrate your creation today, we remember all of the times we experienced your presence in nature. We rejoice knowing that your hands made this spectacular earth and everything within it, and we embrace our role as caretakers. May we experience your creating, inspiring, sustaining presence among us now, as we pray the words that you 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

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

verses 1, 2 & 4

SCRIPTURE LESSONS and REFLECTIONS

GOD PROVIDES AND CONNECTS - Psalm 104:10-14

Lord, you make springs pour water into the ravines; they flow between the mountains. They give water to all the beasts of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst. The birds of the air nest by the waters; they sing among the branches. You water the mountains from your lofty abode; the earth is satisfied by the fruit of your work. You make grass grow for the cattle, and plants for people to cultivate - bringing forth food from the earth.

CREATION HAS A VOICE - Psalm 65:9-13

You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops. The grasslands of the desert overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness. The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing.

COVENANT WITH ALL OF CREATION - Genesis 9:9-10

"I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you-the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you-every living creature on earth."

CARETAKERS OF CREATION - Genesis 2:8-9,15

And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

GIVE A HOOT, DON'T POLLUTE - Numbers 35:33-34

"You shall not pollute the land in which you live.... You shall not defile the land in which you live, in which I also dwell; for I the LORD dwell among the Israelites."

SABBATH FOR ALL OF CREATION - Leviticus 25:2-5, 23

"When you enter the land that I am giving you, the land itself must observe a sabbath to the Lord. For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your vineyards and harvest their crops. But in the seventh year the land is to have a sabbath to the Lord. It shall be a year of complete rest for the land. The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land belongs to me; with me you are but aliens and tenants."

SUBDUE (*kabash*) and DOMINION (*radah*) - Genesis 1:28

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

ANTHEM

*All Creatures of Our God and King*

Jason W. Krug

Wendy Valeri, handbells

Michael Havay, piano

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Let us "Be the Church" by giving back a portion of what God has entrusted to us. May our sharing of earthly and spiritual resources reflect our love of God. May this treasure help us to protect the environment, care for the poor, forgive often, reject racism, fight for the powerless, embrace diversity, and enjoy this one precious life. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

*I Know That My Redeemer Lives*

John Hatton/  
arr. Michael Burkhardt

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD



**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***

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

## 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

Wendy Lazott

Anita Swanson

Bruce Manchester

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Bell Choir Director

Liturgist

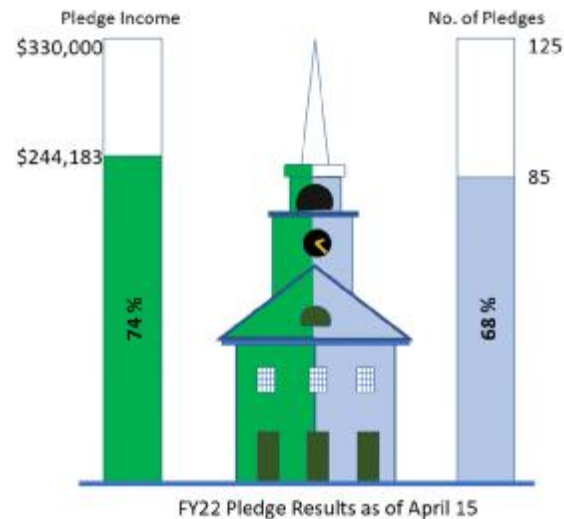
Offering

**CHURCH SCHOOL:** *Protect the Environment—We Are Earth:* The Bible records our beginning in Genesis 2:7 (NRSV), “then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.” And on Ash Wednesday, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Our environment is our source that God created. Love of God means caring for the gift. **Brown Bag lessons** are a child’s resource to respect the Earth, for the Love of God.

**SAVE THE DATE!** The men's group will host an evening at the Fisher Cats baseball game just prior to Fathers Day, on **Wednesday, June 16**, for church members and friends. Details to follow.

**SHARE FOOD PANTRY** requests for April include toothbrushes, toothpaste, bar soap, deodorants, shampoo, conditioner, feminine hygiene products, diapers and wipes. 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!

**FAITH PROMISE:** Our new fiscal year **Stewardship Campaign** is ongoing. As of Friday, April 16, we have received pledges from 85 families, totaling \$244,183. 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](mailto:andrea@ccamherst.org), mail in your pledge intentions, call Andrea (673-3231) or go to the church website <https://www.ccamherst.org/stewardship-pledge/>.



**HOME STARTER PROGRAM BATHROOM KITS DRIVE:** "Back-to-Service"...what better way to celebrate returning to in-person worship than with a "back-to-service" service project! On Sunday, May 2 we will be collecting bathroom items to assemble kits for those in need. Collection will take place after worship on May 2 until 1:00 p.m. - drive-by or bring after in-person worship! Please donate using the SignUp Genius link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040e48a8ac2aa4ff2-home> For more information please contact Karen O'Malley ([kdomalley@gmail.com](mailto:kdomalley@gmail.com)).

## Our Church Calendar

**April 18—24, 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
	6:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group
	Monday	10:00 a.m.
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Men's Fellowship

### Financial Summary

(as of March 31, 2021)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$337,597	\$315,689	\$ 21,908
Expenses	\$309,941	\$326,467	\$( 16,527)
Net Income	\$ 27,657	\$( 10,778)	\$ 38,435

*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, April 18, 2021*

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



April 25: Acts 4:5-12  
Psalm 23  
1 John 3:16-24  
John 10:11-18

May 2: Acts 8:26-40  
Psalm 22:25-31  
1 John 4:7-21  
John 15:1-8