

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



“The trouble with steeling yourself against the harshness of reality is that the same steel that secures your life against being destroyed secures your life also against being opened up and transformed by the holy power that life itself comes from.”

—Frederick Buechner

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

April 25, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Easter

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

*Thine is the Glory*

G. F. Handel/  
arr. Robert Lau

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

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

Day by day, God leads us:

**to the deep, deep pools of peace,  
to the green, lush lawns of grace.**

Day by day, Jesus calls us:

**to pour out ourselves in service,  
to anoint the stranger with hope.**

Day by day, the Holy Spirit shows us:

**the community we could be,  
the family we are called to become.**

Lord Jesus, you who raised Lazarus from the dead and walked across the sea, you are with us always. You teach us to be brave in the face of overwhelming obstacles, to have faith in impossible situations, and to pray when we need strength and comfort. As we take this next hour to worship in your name, remind us that we can live every moment of our lives in your name. May this time renew our faith and enliven our call to live like you. Center us now in this place and time of worship, as we pray the words that you taught us, saying:

**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

*Praise the Lord, God's Glories Show*

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.'

So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

SERMON

"Now I Get It"

ANTHEM

*Morning Has Broken*

Sara Phelps, soloist  
Michael Havay, piano

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Relational God, you who gives us the power to envision a world of justice and abundance for all, take these gifts and use them to grow your Kin-dom here on earth. With this offering of dollars and cents, we pray that those who are hopeless may find hope, that those who are lost may be found, and that the world may see a glimpse of your glory. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

*A Resurrection Fanfare*

Lani Smith

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

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

*Portions of this service are adapted from the work  
of Joanna Harader as posted on Spacious Faith.*



**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. Katherine R. Kennedy  
Sara L. Phelps  
Michael Havay  
Marilyn Gibson  
Don Lyon  
Cindy Boynton

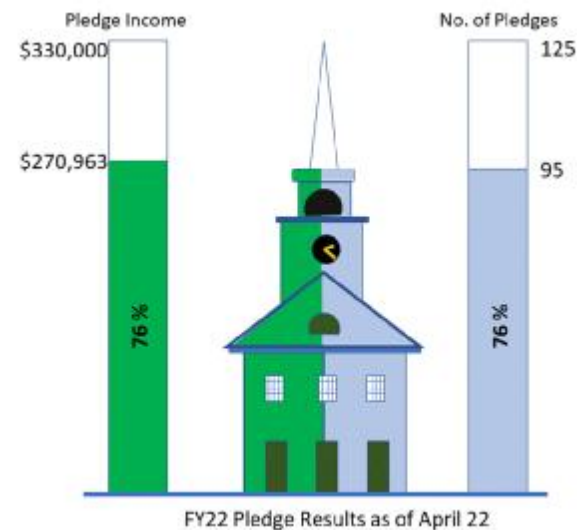
Ministers to the World  
Associate Pastor  
Director of Music  
Organist/Accompanist  
Church School Coordinator  
Liturgist  
World Service Team

**GREAT NEWS!** We are excited to announce that we are **returning to in-person worship** in our sanctuary on **Sunday, May 2**. In order to be welcoming to all, our Re-opening Task Force has established some procedures to keep us safe as we gather. See the next page of the bulletin for details.

**A REMINDER** to all ministry teams and coordinators: **Annual reports are due** in to the church office by April 30. Thank you!

**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)).

**FAITH PROMISE:** Our new fiscal year **Stewardship Campaign** is ongoing. As of Friday, April 23, we have received pledges from 95 families, totaling \$270,963. 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/>.



**CHURCH SCHOOL:** In Acts 9:36-43, *“Jesus Heals Through Us,”*—Peter raises Tabitha from the dead can be a story for children in various ways. Tabitha was a good person sharing with others what she had. Children have so much to share; yet, instruction, role modeling, and following Jesus’ teachings nurture sharing.

**WA’s event** for the **“Pass Along Project”** is an event that we can all take part in to share what we have been so blessed with. Donate new socks for all sizes of babies and children. Contributions can be made to the drive by event Friday, May 14, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. and on Saturday, May 15, from noon to 3:00, or in the church school bin outside our church entrance at the side entrance.

**FISHER CATS BASEBALL:** The church Men’s Group is organizing another informal night out. Join us for a Fisher Cats baseball game at Northeast Delta Dental Stadium in Manchester on **Wednesday, June 16** at 6:35 p.m. Families and friends are welcome. Tickets cost \$12. (If the group purchase exceeds 20, ticket cost is reduced to \$9. The ticket and food special is \$11.25 which includes a large drink, hot dog and chips). Unless the state guidance changes we will be sitting in our own socially distanced pod. Contact Roger Hooper at [Rhooper673@aol.com](mailto:Rhooper673@aol.com) for tickets or with questions.

**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!

## Our Church Calendar

April 25—May 1, 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
Monday	10:00 a.m.	Woman’s Association
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Men’s Fellowship
	7:00 p.m.	World Service Team
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
Thursday	3:00 p.m.	Racial Justice Group

### 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).*

# FAQ's as We Regather for In-Person Worship

## **1. What COVID-19 safety precautions can I expect?**

Throughout the service, all attendees will be required to wear a mask\* and practice social distancing. We will be seating people at a safe distance, and our pastors will be preaching behind a plexiglass barrier. The church will also continue to be regularly cleaned.

\*PLEASE NOTE: It is required that masks be worn throughout the church building at all times until further notice!

## **2. What do we do when we get there?**

When you arrive at the church, you will be greeted by a member of our re-opening team, who will ask you standard CDC questions and gather information for contact tracing. Then an usher will guide you to the next available seat in the sanctuary. **Please arrive early to allow extra time for these procedures.**

## **3. Can I sit with members of my immediate family?**

Yes, of course! Ushers will be seating by groups by household, so that we can best utilize the space in the sanctuary.

## **4. What will the service be like?**

In order to keep our services safe, some aspects of worship will be different than you remember:

- The service will start at 10:00 a.m., and last no longer than 45 minutes.
- Bulletins will be available at the entrance of the church. Please take them home with you after worship.
- For now, music will be pre-recorded and there will be no choir or congregational singing.
- Children are *always* welcome at CCA! At this time, children will remain in their seats with their parents throughout the service and there will be no church school or nursery care. The child-in-church basket activities will be available every week.
- We will continue to practice communion in our online worship service, but there will be no in-person communion until it is safe to do so.
- At the end of the service, please remain in your seat until an usher dismisses your row.

## **5. Will there be an offering?**

Yes! Offering plates will be located at the front and rear of the sanctuary.

## **6. How do I submit a prayer request?**

If you would like your prayer request lifted up during worship, please submit your prayer request through our website in advance of the service. You are also welcome to fill out a prayer card during worship and leave it in the offering plate for our pastors **after** the service.

## **7. Will there be a fellowship hour?**

Unfortunately, not at this time

## **8. Will restrooms be available?**

Yes, all restrooms will be open for use.

## **9. If I'm not ready to come back, can I still worship online?**

YES! Online worship will continue as it is now.

## **10. What if I have a question that is not addressed here?**

Please do not hesitate to reach out to any member of the Re-opening Task Force with any other questions you may have about in-person worship: Susan Manchester, Doug Topliffe, Keith Lammers, Kate Thompson, Kathy Skoglund, Sue and Tom Werst, Pastor Maureen Frescott, Pastor Kate Kennedy.

*Sunday, April 25, 2021*

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



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

May 9: Acts 10:44-48  
Psalm 98  
1 John 5:1-6  
1 John 15:9-17