

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



*“When Jesus let go of his last breath it hovered in the air
in front of him for a moment and then it was set loose on the earth.
It grew until it was a mighty wind, which God sent spinning
through an upper room in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost.”*

—Barbara Brown Taylor

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

May 23, 2021

Pentecost

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Harold W. Friedell

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP and PRAYER OF INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)
(adapted from the United Church of Christ Statement of Faith)

One: We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,

Many: and to your ways we testify:

One: You call the worlds into being, create us all in your own image,

Many: and set before us the ways of living and renewing.

One: You seek in holy love to lead all people away from apathy and brokenness.

Many: You guide us through the prophets and the apostles who came before us.

One: In Jesus, the man of Nazareth, you have come to us and shared our common lot,

Many: conquering division and death and reconciling the world.

One: You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,

Many: binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

One: You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,

Many: to be your servants in the service of others,

One: to proclaim the gospel to all the world,

Many: to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table.

One: You promise to all who trust you forgiveness and fullness of grace,

Many: courage in the struggle for justice and peace,

One: your presence in trial and rejoicing,

Many: and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

All: Blessing and honor be unto our Creator God!

Let us pray:

Spirit of gentleness, we invite you to move, swirl, and breath into us now. Remind us that you are always present: encouraging, comforting, and inspiring us to be the loving people you created us to be. Stir us during this hour to walk humbly with you, to embrace your love, to do justice in our unjust and fragmented world, to birth the church into being, all over again.

May God's sacred presence fill this place, 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.

CHILDREN'S TIME

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

OUR COVENANT WITH NEW MEMBERS

Lee Bowley and Gail Miller Joan and Stephen Egbertston Heidi and Alvin Fortune

Congregational Covenant and Welcome (in unison)

We welcome you with joy in the common mission and life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as together we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of Jesus' ministry in the world.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

HYMN

On Pentecost They Gathered
verses 1, 3 and 4

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes,

Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.”

All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”

But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.” But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these people are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

SERMON

“Choosing Church”

ANTHEM

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

African-American spiritual

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Holy One, you have given yourself to us in Creator, in Christ, in Spirit. We now give back to you. Receive what we offer and transform it by the power of your Spirit into a means of spreading your peace, justice, and love in the world. May many lives be touched by this offering, and may we see the signs of your presence birthed all around us, so that we may be inspired to follow you all the days of our lives. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*March on "Down Ampney"
(Come Down, O Love Divine)*

Ralph Vaughan Williams/
arr. Jon Spong

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AMHERST, NH, UCC



**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.

The church office is reachable by telephone 673-3231, or by email info@ccamherst.org. 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.com/ccamherst and Instagram.com/ccamherstnh

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
 Sandy Demarest

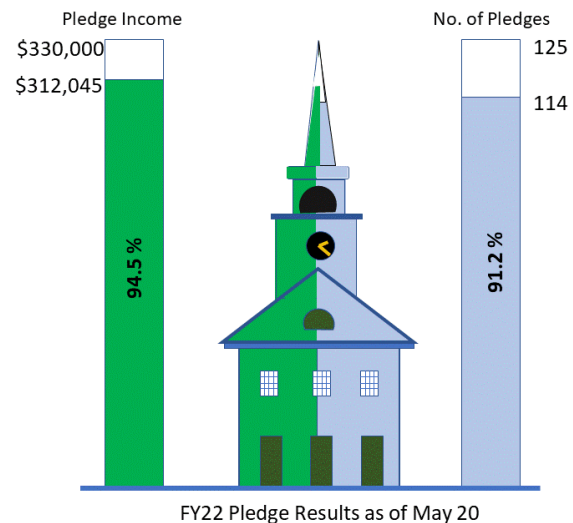
Ministers to the World
 Senior Pastor
 Associate Pastor
 Director of Music
 Organist/Accompanist
 Liturgist

ANNUAL MEETING TODAY: After the worship service, please join us in the Memorial Garden for a brief fellowship time to welcome our newest members. We will return to the sanctuary at 11:00 a.m. for the Annual Meeting. All members are encouraged to attend this important meeting. Copies of the Annual Report can be found on the table in the narthex.

THANK YOU FROM THE DIACONATE to those who were able to contribute for the Easter baskets for those in need in our local communities. Appreciation from those that were able to enjoy a holiday meal or just to help make ends meet in a stressful time. The generous outreach to those in need from our church congregation is always gratefully appreciated!

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 for tickets or with questions.


SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for May include canned ham, canned meats, side dishes (seasoned pasta mix, Hamburger Helper, etc.), ravioli and Beef-a-Roni. 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!



CHURCH SCHOOL: Today is Pentecost! The Holy Spirit came upon the disciples gathering for Pentecost (Acts 2:1-21, 36-42). Jewish feast of Pentecost (Shavuot) celebrates the fruits of their harvest. Jesus' disciple Peter spoke about Jesus' teachings and to begin a new life with God's spirit guiding them. Speaking in different tongues gives each disciple the ability to spread the word of God to many people. The Christian Church begins as the disciples move forward to teach God's word, engaging others to follow Jesus.

Kites soar as a reminder to children that the Holy Spirit is with us, guiding them as they enjoy life with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control.

Children's Sunday was a fantastic celebration of our church school and the team of faith and spiritual nurturers of our children. Thank you to Pastor Maureen, Pastor Kate, Mrs. Leknes, Mrs. Werst, Mrs. Warren, our teachers and our congregation.



The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:

May 30: Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

June 6: 1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20,
(11:14-15) and Psalm 138
or Genesis 3:8-15 and Psalm 130
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1
Mark 3:20-35

LITTLE FREE FARMSTAND ~ "Grow & Give"

We are thrilled to provide more information about this exciting initiative. This summer, we are partnering with **SHARE** in Milford to make fresh produce and eggs readily available to the community. We invite local growers from Amherst and Milford (and surrounding towns) to share their excess produce on Sunday mornings. Families will come partake of the farm stand on Sunday afternoons, and anything not taken will go to the SHARE food pantry for their clients to select from during the week. Please visit [farmstand – Congregational Church of Amherst, NH \(ccamherst.org\)](http://farmstand-Congregational Church of Amherst, NH (ccamherst.org)) for more information and to sign up to help.

Our Church Calendar

May 23 -29, 2021

Many 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—Sanctuary
	10:00 a.m.	Worship—Online
	11:00 a.m.	Annual Meeting
	2:00 p.m.	Middle High Youth
	4:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth
Monday	10:00 a.m.	Woman's Association
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Men's Fellowship
	6:00 p.m.	Audio/Visual Team
	7:00 p.m.	World Service Team
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Capital Campaign Steering Team
Thursday	3:00 p.m.	Racial Justice Group

Sunday, May 23, 2021



EVERYONE COULD WIN \$\$!!

Too good to be true? NO! It's simple!

PURCHASE A RAFFLE TICKET!

- 10 cash prizes range from \$500 - \$5,000. Yes, you could win \$5,000!
- Ticket price is \$20 - \$10 comes straight back to the church!
- Drawing Friday June 18th – you do not need to be in attendance to win!
- Bonus: each ticket comes with lots of coupons!

PURCHASE A RAFFLE TICKET!

Helpful tips for purchasing:

1. To receive the coupons, ensure when you purchase your tickets you choose 'YES' on the 'Include Local Coupons' dropdown option.
2. When you proceed through the checkout process, the payment button will say 'PROCEED TO PAYPAL'. Click on this button and you will then be directed to a screen where you can either pay by PAYPAL, Credit, or Debit Card.

This is a fundraising effort of the [Milford Rotary Club](#) in conjunction with their [100 Holes of Golf in One Day](#) charity tournament. Local organizations that sell tickets receive \$10 for each ticket for their own organization. Each year this event raises considerable funds that are distributed to local, regional, and international community and non-profit organizations, and are used to provide \$30,000 in scholarships to area students.

Please contact [Sally Hooper](#) (603-321-1143) for questions or more details.