

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



*"God's ways are higher than our ways not because [God]
is less compassionate than we are but because [God]
is more compassionate than we can ever imagine."*

— Rachel Held Evans

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

May 30, 2021

Trinity Sunday

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

Allein Gott in der Höh sei Her
(All Glory Be to God on High)

settings by F. W. Zachow
and J. P. Sweelinck

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: For God so loved the world;

**Many: The sparrows, the sea lions,
The rocks and the trees,
The fish and the people.**

One: For God so loved the world;

**Many: In success and failure,
In health and sickness,
In fear and faith.**

One: For God so loved the world;

**Many: That God became one of us,
And suffers along with us,
And offers new life for us.**

One: For God so loved the world;

**Many: That we are moved to worship,
Connect,
Grow,
And love.**

All: Let us worship our God, who comes to us anew, again and again.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

God of majesty and power, how awesome you are to us! The mountains tremble, the seas roar at the sound of your name! Yet you have chosen to come to us in love and tenderness, knowing each of us by name, wanting a unique relationship with each of us. We praise you for the shocking miraculous

truth, God, that we can always be reborn; that daily you welcome us into a surprising new life, into the wonderful, creative, unpredictable realm of your Spirit. Open our hearts and our spirits, God, to hear your word today, and having heard, to use our insights to bring more love and peace to your world.

May God’s sacred presence fill this place, as we join together in the prayer 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.

HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy
verses 1, 2 & 4

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 3:1-17

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a Jewish leader. He came to Jesus at night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could do these miraculous signs that you do unless God is with him.” Jesus answered, “I assure you, unless someone is born anew, it’s not possible to see God’s kingdom.” Nicodemus asked, “How is it possible for an adult to be born? It’s impossible to enter the mother’s womb for a second time and be born, isn’t it?” Jesus answered, “I assure you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, it’s not possible to enter God’s kingdom. Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. Don’t be surprised that I said to you, ‘You must be born anew.’ God’s Spirit blows wherever it wishes. You hear its sound, but you don’t know where it comes from or where it is going. It’s the same with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said, “How are these things possible?”

Jesus answered, “You are a teacher of Israel and you don’t know these things? I assure you that we speak about what we know and testify about what we have seen, but you don’t receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you don’t believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Human One. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so must the Human One be lifted up so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won’t perish but will have eternal life. God didn’t send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

SERMON

“Born Again”

ANTHEM

Let Me Ride in That Morning
Chancel Choir

Mary McDonald

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)
Lord God, through Jesus we learned to call you Abba, Father—parent to us all. We do so now, to remind ourselves of our many sisters and brothers, your many children, who need hope and care. Use our gifts to reach others with your great love. Amen.


COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Gloria from Twelfth Mass

W. A. Mozart,
arr. George Blake

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD



The Lectionary texts
for the next two
weeks are:

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

June 13: 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13 and Psalm 20
or Ezekiel 17:22-24 and Psalm 92:1-4,
12-15
2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17
Mark 4:26-34

Our Church Calendar

May 30—June 5, 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.	Fellowship— Memorial Garden
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Men’s Fellowship
	1:30 p.m.	Small Group Ministry
	6:00 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Pastoral Relations Team
Thursday	9:00 a.m.	Music Team

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. Prescott
Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy
Sara L. Phelps
Michael Havay
Leona Hendrickson

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

Wendy Valeri
Marilyn Gibson

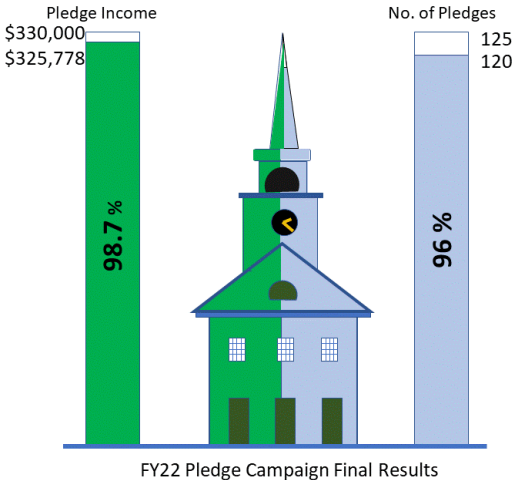
Bell Choir Director
Church School Coordinator

FISHER CATS BASEBALL—LAST CALL: The church Men’s Group is organizing an 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). Contact Roger Hooper at Rhooper673@aol.com by June 1 for tickets or with questions.

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-CongregationalChurchofAmherst.NH.ccamherst.org) for more information and to sign up to help.

ANNUAL MEETING: The presentation slides and the Zoom recording from last week’s annual meeting can be accessed through the members section of our website, or by contacting Andrea in the church office. The 2020-2021 Annual Report can also be found on our website, and printed copies are available on the table in the narthex.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN RESULTS: Thanks to the congregation’s generosity, we reached \$325.8K (98.7% of our financial goal) from 120 pledges (96% of our participation goal) for the 2022 Fiscal Year.



Please Help Raise the Flag

on the church's new flag pole

We are currently looking for donations to help pay for a 30-foot tall, free standing flag pole to be placed in the front lawn just west of the church. With this new flag pole, we will be able to proudly fly the American flag in the proper manner. This project is expected to cost roughly \$2,000, with the church's Preservation Fund financing up to \$1,000 of that amount. Donations from the congregation will be greatly appreciated to make this project a reality. Should donations exceed this financial gap, excess receipts will be rolled back into the Preservation Fund for future long term capital expenditure for the church; a win-win for all. To donate, please contact Andrea in the church office at 673-3231, email andrea@ccamherst.org, or go online to [Donation \(eservicepayments.com\)](https://www.donation.eservicepayments.com). Thanks in advance for your support of this project.



CHURCH SCHOOL: Today is Trinity Sunday— The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **One God—**the Father, Jesus His Son, and the Holy Spirit. From John 3:1-16: *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."*

Children have a difficult time understanding the Trinity; it is a mystery, yet it has an explanation. Like an apple with three parts, skin, flesh and seeds, it is still one apple. Metaphorically speaking, the apple is God, the skin is the Father, the flesh is Jesus, and the core with seeds is the Holy Spirit. The Father holds all together, the flesh or Jesus provides the nourishment of our faith, while the seeds or Holy Spirit provide the many fruits to guide us. Still a complex mystery, yet a tangible for understanding.

Thank you to all for a joyous Children's Sunday. Many hands made light work.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for June include canned fruit, flour, boxed cake mixes, baking supplies, sugar, coffee, tea, juice and granola. 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!

SUMMER BOOK GROUP: The new Racial Justice Group at CCA invites you to take part in a summer series of reflection and exploration as we journal through the book *Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World and Become a Good Ancestor*, by Layla F. Saad. This group will meet for 12 Sundays after church starting June 6. Come to church, visit at coffee hour, and then head to the back yard for discussion! You do not need to attend every session to participate, but you do need to complete the reading and journaling every week, even if you are away! This way, the group can learn and grow together.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up, email Pastor Kate at pastorkate@ccamherst.org.

Sunday, May 30, 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.