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

"Jesus was sleeping on a cushion in the stern, collapsed on the only thing in the whole boat that could have been used as a flotation device. Oh the frustration the disciples (and we?) must feel when the Divine Life Preserver persists in sleeping, and they can't even yank the cushion out from under him to try to save themselves!"

—The Rev. Dr. Mary Luti

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

June 20, 2021 **Fourth Sunday after Pentecost** **10:00 a.m.**

PRELUDE *Be Still, My Soul* Jean Sibelius/
arr. James Pethel

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

One: When dangers invade our sense of safety
and we wonder if our Creator cares,
we hear the invitation:
Many: Be at peace. Be calm.

One: When we face loss and turmoil,
and our sense of security is shaky,
we hear the invitation:
Many: Be at peace. Be calm.

One: When our lives feel unsettled and desolate
because of illness or sorrow,
we hear the invitation:
Many: Be at peace. Be calm.

One: When our communities experience distress, conflict,
and loss of civil discourse,
we hear the invitation:
Many: Be at peace. Be calm.

One: When controversial issues and rigidity of spirit
threaten to tear at the very fabric of our faith,
we hear the invitation:
Many: Be at peace. Be calm.

All: Let us step in this hour with our God, and be at peace in our worship!

Let us pray:

Help us to know, O God, that the one who calmed the dangerous sea is present with us, cares for us, and can calm the stormy waters of our lives. Help us to be present for each other as we navigate the storms of life together. Help us to trust more fully and more deeply in you.

We pray in the name and words of Jesus, who invites us to be at peace:

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 *This Is My Father's World*

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 4:35-41

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped.

But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

SERMON "Jesus Slept"

ANTHEM *At the Water's Edge* Jason W. Krug
Wendy Valeri, handbells
Michael Havay, piano

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)
Ruler of all time and space, we want to be faithful stewards of your creation. Receive our offering, that our church may come alive in the Spirit. Help us to use the resources that you have given us to further carry Christ's message into the world, in word and in deed. Guide us, inspire us, move us, so that we may build and sustain the peaceable community that you call us to be. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *"Be Not Afraid"* from *Elijah* Felix Mendelssohn

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:

June 27: 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 and Psalm 130
Song of Solomon 1:13-15, 2:23-24 and Psalm 30
or *Lamentations 3:22-33 and Psalm 30*
2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Mark 5:21-43

July 4: 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 and Psalm 48
Ezekiel 2:1-5 and Psalm 123
2 Corinthians 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-13

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."

OPEN AND AFFIRMING
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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.

Portions of the liturgy have been adapted from Connie R. Burkholder, posted on the Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren website. http://rockhay.tripod.com/

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church	Ministers to the World
Rev. Maureen R. Frescott	Senior Pastor
Sara L. Phelps	Director of Music
Michael Havay	Organist/Accompanist
Wendy Valeri	Bell Choir Director
Sally Bowkett	Liturgist
Sue Werst	Children's Time

****

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy	Associate Pastor

SUMMER WORSHIP TIME: During the months of July and August our Sunday worship services begin at 9:00 a.m. This year, however, the July 4 holiday falls on Sunday. Since the town's reverse parade begins at 9:00 a.m., we have decided to keep our worship time at 10:00 a.m. on July 4 so that folks can attend the parade before worship. We will move to the 9:00 a.m. start time on July 11.

WANTED—NURSERY COORDINATOR: We are looking for someone who can provide consistent, quality care for young children in the nursery during Sunday morning worship services. The hours are 9:30—11:30 a.m. starting on Rally Day, September 12. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older. For more information, please speak with Pastor Maureen, Pastor Kate, Sue Werst, or leave a message on the church office voice mail (673-3231, ext. 0) and we will be back in touch with you.

LOOKING FOR HANDS-ON SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES but don't have a lot of time? Here are some great opportunities! Visit our SOS page for a full listing: https://www.ccamherst.org/sos/

Little Free Farmstand starts June 20th! Our Little Free Farmstand is now ready for produce, volunteers, and shoppers! We are looking for farmstand 'Greeters' - those folks who will help setup, staff, and put away the farmstand on Sunday afternoons. Shifts are 12:00-2:30pm and 2:00-4:30pm. Visit https://www.ccamherst.org/sos/ and use the SignUp Genius link or contact Terri Behm (Terri.behm@gmail.com).

Lawn Mowing: It's that time of year when the church lawn is beautiful but does require attention! We are looking for folks to sign up to mow the lawn - many hands make light work! We will need help now through the end of October so pick a slot and smell that freshly cut grass! Visit https://www.ccamherst.org/sos/ and use the SignUp Genius link. Details will be sent in a confirmation email.

Questions? Contact Tim Wiegand (nhwiegand@comcast.net).

CHURCH SCHOOL: Church school families are invited to participate in the Little Free Farm Stand: "Grow and Give." Today is our kick off day. For more information for how you can participate as a family please visit: https://www.ccamherst.org/farmstand/

Today's Church School Lesson: Trusting God when we are afraid. In the Bible's book of Mark, Chapter 4, verses 35-41, we find Jesus asleep in the front of the boat with the disciples, when a great storm arose, and the disciples were full of fear. They woke Jesus up, thinking he did not care about them, but that wasn't true. Jesus was upset that the disciples didn't have faith that he would keep them safe. Jesus then calmed the winds and rough waters, saying, "Peace, be still!" You can imagine how relieved the disciples felt. Have you ever felt like that? Have you ever been so afraid you were not sure what to do? We can turn our fears over to Jesus, and trust that he can calm the waters, and our troubles, if we have the faith to let him.

As parents, it can be a great gift to our children to model faith, by walking through our fears, big and small. May you and your families feel the great peace of a strong faith.

Today is Father's Day: Exodus 20:12 reminds us to "Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you." Do something special for the father(s) in your family today.

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 meets for 12 Sundays after church and started 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 .

SEEKING HOSTS/HOSTESSES for In-Person Fellowship: As we continue to open up with more opportunities for in-person connection, we are excited to offer the option to enjoy a cold water or lemonade in the Memorial Garden following our church service. This will be held weather permitting each Sunday throughout the summer months unless our re-opening approach changes. This said we are looking for volunteers to host now through September 5. If you are interested please contact Meredith Dart via cell or text at 603-305-9065, or email Andrea in the church office at andrea@ccamherst.org .

Sunday, June 20, 2021

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 our website, and under the Giving tab, click Donate. Thanks in advance for your support of this project.

Our Church Calendar

June 20—26, 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
	11:15 a.m.	Summer Book Group
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Men's Fellowship
Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Capital Campaign Steering Team
Thursday	3:00 p.m.	Racial Justice Group