

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



"It is not that I'm so smart. But I stay with the questions much longer."

— Albert Einstein

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

August 15, 2021

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

John Hughes/
arr. Don Hustad

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

One: Spirit of Understanding,
You bring us the wisdom of God,
help us to walk in God's ways
all the days of our lives.

Many: Loving God, you guide our steps: You live among us.

One: Spirit of Curiosity,
You fill us with true reverence for Creation,
that we may turn from our own desires,
to do good and seek peace.

Many: Loving God, you guide our wonderings: You live among us.

One: Spirit of Inspiration,
as we sing praises to God with our voices,
help us sing with our spirits
full of love, and full of joy.

Many: Loving God, you guide our hearts: You live among us.

Let us pray:

Holy Wisdom,
You granted Solomon's request
for an understanding mind
and the knowledge to discern good from evil.
In this hour, in our lifetimes,
fill us with such understanding and knowledge
that we may act as instruments
of your loving desire for creation,

working with you to transform
our conceit into concern for others,
our fear into love,
our violence into peace,
and our brokenness into wholeness.

May we feel your Spirit of Wisdom moving among us now, O God, 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.

HYMN

I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

Then David slept with his ancestors, and was buried in the city of David. The time that David reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned seven years in Hebron, and thirty-three years in Jerusalem.

So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established. Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life."

SERMON

“What Would You Ask of God?”

ANTHEM

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
Wendy Valeri, handbells
Michael Havay, piano

arr. Cathy Moglebust

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

With joyous praise we dedicate this offering, O God, acknowledging our responsibility to share your resources and love all your people. In gratitude for the gifts you have given us, we pay it forward to others. We thank you for the wisdom and insight we have received, as we use these gifts to live out the gospel in the world, in Jesus' name. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Exultate

Roger C. Wilson/
edited by Carson Cooman

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:

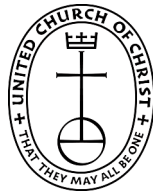


August 22: 1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43
and Psalm 84

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 and Psalm 34:15-22
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:56-69

August 29: Song of Solomon 2:8-13 and Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 and Psalm 15
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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.*

*Portions of the liturgy have been adapted Thematic, Intercessory
and Scripture Prayers for the RCL, Vanderbilt Divinity Library.
[Year A - Season after Pentecost - Proper 21 \(26\) : Revised
Common Lectionary \(vanderbilt.edu\)](#)*

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 Valeri
Roger Hooper
Joan Egbertson

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor
Director of Music
Organist/Accompanist
Bell Choir Director
Deacon in Charge
Liturgist

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.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for August include toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorants, shampoo and conditioner, bar soap, 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!

THE SUNDAY JOYS AND CONCERNS are emailed to those who want to include them in their daily personal prayers. If you would like to receive them each week, please let Andrea in the church office know: andrea@ccamherst.org.

CHURCH SCHOOL: How are your zucchinis and pumpkins growing? Church school families are invited to participate in the Little Free Farm Stand: "Grow and Give". Drop off vegetables on any Sunday before 10 am at the back door of the church. For more information for how you can participate as a family please visit: [farmstand – Congregational Church of Amherst, NH \(ccamherst.org\)](http://farmstand-Congregational Church of Amherst, NH (ccamherst.org))

This week's Church School Reading: This week's lesson is from the book of 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14. The story tells us about King Solomon, who was the son of the wise and faithful King David. Solomon wants to be in God's favor, and at first does many sacrifices. He wants to be a good king. God comes to Solomon in a dream, and Solomon asks God to help him be a good, kind and wise king to his people. God is so pleased that Solomon doesn't ask for selfish things for himself, that God rewards Solomon with great wisdom, to reign over his people. This is an example to us that even a great king like Solomon doesn't know everything. Asking God for help, in good times and bad times, is the right direction to take. You may want to try each day, to pray to God to "show you the best direction you can take, to follow God's path".

Our Church Calendar

August 15—21, 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	9:00 a.m.	Worship—Sanctuary
	10:00 a.m.	Recorded Worship—Online
	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship—Memorial Garden
	10:15 a.m.	Summer Book Group—Memorial Garden
	10:30 a.m.	Christian Ed
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Men's Fellowship

Financial Summary

(as of June 30, 2021)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$67,695	\$75,290	\$(7,595)
Expenses	\$32,684	\$35,287	\$(2,603)
Net Income	\$35,011	\$40,003	\$(4,992)

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, August 15, 2021 recorded