

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



*“Hypocrisy can afford to be magnificent in its promises,  
for never intending to go beyond promise, it costs nothing.”*

~ Edmund Burke

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

August 29, 2021

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

*Prelude on a Czechoslovakian Folk Song*

Carlos Staszkeski

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

One: How do we worship God?

There are many ways!

**Many: We worship God in prayer,  
in presence,  
in persistence.**

One: We worship God in scripture,  
in song,  
in solitude.

**Many: We worship God in movement,  
in miracles,  
in masterpieces.**

One: We worship God in our words,  
in our work,  
in our wanderings.

**Many: We worship God in connection,  
in Creation,  
in community.**

**All: We worship God, together,  
right here, right now.**

Let us pray:

God of sacred spaces and simple places, we worship you wherever we are in whatever we are doing. Help us to feel your presence in this hour we've set aside to lift up our prayers, to hear your word, to seek your comfort, to sing your praise, in this sanctuary, in our homes, in our wandering. Hear our voices, receive our offerings, enter our hearts, as we celebrate the gifts you have given us in your grace.

Hear us now, as we lift up our voices using the words that Jesus has 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

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?' He said to them, 'Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

"This people honors me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me;  
in vain do they worship me,  
teaching human precepts as doctrines."

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.'

Then Jesus called the crowd again and said to them, 'Listen to me, all of you who have ears to hear, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that can defile by going in, but the things that come out are what defile.'

For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: obscenities, theft, murder, adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, arrogance, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they are the source of your pollution.'

SERMON

"This Church is Not Full of Hypocrites"

ANTHEM

*Berceuse, Op. 16*  
Sue Werst, flute  
Michael Havey, piano

Gabriel Fauré

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

O God, who has given us a vision of your will and your purposes, help us to use the resources we dedicate here to accomplish the work you would have us do. With joy, we bring the fruits of our labor, the work of our hands, the days of our lives for your special blessing. Send your Spirit into our midst to consecrate us anew in your service. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*God the Omnipotent*

Alexis Lvov/  
arr. Robert J. Powell

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD



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

September 5: 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

September 12: Proverbs 1:20-30 and Psalm 19  
Isaiah 50:4-9a and Psalm 116:1-9  
James 3:1-12  
Mark 8:27-38

# 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](mailto: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](http://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

Lee Bowley

Sue Werst

Wendy Valeri

Gretchen Davis

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Liturgist

Musician

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Bell Choir Director

Interim Children's Coordinator

**A REMINDER:** Next Sunday our worship service returns to 10:00 a.m.

**ONLINE WORSHIP:** We recently installed a new video system in our sanctuary, and starting next Sunday we will be **live-streaming** our worship service on Facebook at 10:00 a.m. and uploading the recording of the live-stream to our website and YouTube by noon every Sunday.

The ability to watch and listen to the sermons, enjoy the music and participate in the prayers from home, any time we want, is something many of us value. Donations of any amount to help fund this technology are welcomed and appreciated. If you would like to contribute, please make checks payable to *The Congregational Church*, with *Technology* noted on the memo line. You can also make a donation online through our website.

Thank you in advance for your generous support. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Doug Topliffe, Dave Phelps, Pastor Maureen or any of the other members of the ad hoc AV Streaming-Recording Team (Pastor Kate, Don Holden, Tim Wiegand, Tom Werst, and Nancy Protzmann).

**RALLY SUNDAY IS SEPTEMBER 12!** Join us as we mark the start of a new program year. More information is available in the September *Spire*.

**RUMMAGE SALE CANCELLED:** Due to the on-going-ness of COVID, and out of an abundance of caution, the Woman's Association has regretfully decided to cancel the fall Good Stuff (Rummage) Sale.

**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](mailto:andrea@ccamherst.org).

**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!

**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.

**MASK POLICY:** As the reopening committee continues to reassess the current COVID situation, we have come to the conclusion that we must return to mandatory mask wearing during our church service and during any other events or group meetings that are held in the church.

This conclusion is based on the most recent CDC guidelines that are now applicable to Hillsborough county which recently reached “sustained” levels of transmission. At this level, the recommendation is quite clear that all indoor activities require mask wearing of unvaccinated as well as vaccinated people. It is clear that both unvaccinated and vaccinated people can transmit the new delta variant at about the same degree. We feel strongly that we must, as a church and organization, do what we can to protect those who are at highest risk - children, unvaccinated and those with a compromised immune systems. We are truly sad we must return to this mandate, but we look forward to the time when we can meet together safely again.

**CHURCH SCHOOL: Do you have any green beans or 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 10:00 a.m. at the back door of the church. For more information for how you can participate as a family please visit: <https://www.ccamherst.org/farmstand/>

**This week’s Church School Reading:** This week’s lesson is from the book of Mark:7, verses 1 -7, 14-15, 21-23. It was a tradition to always wash hands before eating, much like we do today. In this story, the disciples forgot to wash their hands before eating, and the Pharisees were horrified that Jesus would eat with them. Jesus reminded them that it was more important to have a “clean heart,” one that followed the teaching of God, and focus on helping others, rather than to worry about a little dirt on our hands. So this week, try to remember to be kind to others and not judge them if they have a little dirt on their hands or faces, because we are all children of God.

**Our Church Calendar**

**August 29—September 4, 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
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Men’s Fellowship

*Sunday, August 29, 2021*