

*Sunday, September 5, 2021*

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



*“Don't tell me the moon is shining;  
show me the glint of light on broken glass.”*

— Anton Chekhov

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

September 5, 2021      Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost      10:00 a.m.

## GATHERING CHIMES

*Let us be gathered in silence so that we may prepare to worship.*

## GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE      *But Now I See*      Richard A. Williamson

\*CALL TO WORSHIP and PRAYER OF INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)  
adapted from Psalm 146

One: People of God, praise the Lord!  
**Many: Happy are we who trust in God.**  
One: Our God, who made the heavens and the earth.  
**Many: Who gives food to the hungry.**  
One: Who executes justice for the poor.  
**Many: Who watches over the stranger.**  
One: Who loves the righteous.  
**Many: Happy are we who trust in God.**  
**All: Let us praise the God who made us.**

Gracious God, who loves us just as we are, we come before you today to praise you, to thank you, to ask of you, and to learn how to follow you in all that we do. We bring our fears and defenses, knowing that your Word will sooth our anxieties and challenge our assumptions. We bring our doubts and our worries, believing that our imperfect attention is still a worthy offering before you. May your power be at work within us today in this worship and throughout our lives, transforming us more and more into the people you call us to be. May your Spirit move among us now 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.**

\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE  
The peace of God be with you. AND ALSO WITH YOU.

**SMALL GROUP MINISTRY—Sign up now!** Small Group Ministry is where 8-10 people meet with the intention of establishing deeper connections with each other and with God. The groups meet once a month from October to June, and are led by lay members of the congregation. The group meetings run 1.5 hours and include a check-in, a short topic reading, discussion of the topic, and closing prayer.

We have two groups to choose from: on the first Tuesday from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m., and on the first Sunday of the month from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Both groups will meet on Zoom, with in-person meetings when possible. Sign up online through our website, or contact Pastor Maureen.

**SINGERS AND RINGERS:** Choir rehearsals resume in the sanctuary on September 9. The Bell Choir rehearses at 6:00 p.m. and the Chancel Choir at 7:30 p.m. Are you interested in singing or ringing? We'd love to have you join us. Contact Sara Phelps, Director of Music (kalben1@comcast.net), or Wendy Valeri, Bell Choir Director (wendy.valeri@fmr.com).

**A NEW LOOK AT THE OLD TESTAMENT:** Is the OLD Testament still relevant today? Who wrote it and why? This fall, we'll continue to take a NEW look at the OLD Testament through this video lecture series produced by the Great Courses. We'll watch the video together as a group and then have a discussion facilitated by Pastor Maureen.

The class resumes on September 15, and will meet every first and third Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. We'll meet on Zoom, but anyone who feels comfortable gathering in-person at the church is welcome to do so (masks are required). All are welcome! Please RSVP to pastormaureen@ccamherst.org to receive the Zoom link, or access the link through the *Members* section of our church website (Go to *Zoom Mtg Links*, look for *Wednesday Morning Adult Ed*).

**POLAR FLEECE BLANKET BONANZA!** Do you have new anti-pill polar fleece in your house? Our Church School "Be A Blessing" mission project this September is no-sew polar fleece blankets to support Sleep In Heavenly Peace (SIHP) for the NH-Hillsborough Chapter. This will run from Creative Worship Sunday, September 19 to mid-October. We are in need of donations of new anti-pill polar fleece as well as any 1/2 yd to 2 yds pieces. There will be a designated drop off bin at the back door of the church beginning Labor Day weekend.

You can also help by donating online through our website; under Giving, Donate, choose Missions and specify SIHP. Any funds not used to purchase the polar fleece will be sent to the SIHP Chapter: NH-Hillsborough, for mattress purchases. You can also send a check to the church office, make it payable to *The Congregational Church of Amherst*, with *SIHP* noted on the memo line.

## Our Church Calendar September 5—11, 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
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship— Memorial Garden
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Men's Fellowship
	6:00 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting—Parlor
	4:00 p.m.	Communications
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir—Sanctuary
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir— Sanctuary

**ONLINE WORSHIP:** We recently installed a new video system in our sanctuary, and starting TODAY we are **live-streaming** our worship service on Facebook 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 Day is September 12

All are invited to join us as we mark the beginning of a new program year.

**Church school's welcome back celebration** will be held outside in the back field. Starting at 9:45 a.m. parents will be able to register their children and students will be able to meet our wonderful team of teachers.

### EVERYONE is invited to bring a picnic lunch

and blanket or chair, and join us on the lawn after the worship service for a picnic and extended fellowship time. Lemonade, water, ice cream and cookies will be provided.



*Due to COVID, this year's activities are taking place outdoors, weather permitting. Stay tuned for alternate plans should weather conditions turn unfavorable.*

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



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

September 19: Proverbs 31:10-31 and Psalm 1  
Song of Solomon 1:16-2:1 or *Jeremiah 11:18-20*  
and Psalm 54  
James 3:13—4:3,7-8a  
Mark 9:30-37

### THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 7: 24-37

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.' So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'

SERMON

"Show and Tell"

ANTHEM

*Prayer for Peace*  
Chancel Choir

Benjamin Harlan

### JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

*If you have a prayer to share, fill out a prayer card in your pew and place it in the "Joys and Concerns" plate at the back of the sanctuary. Ushers will bring the cards forward to the pastor during the Anthem.*

### INVITATION TO OUR OFFERING

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

God of all creation, we hope that when we give to your church today, we are following in Christ's footsteps. May this offering be used to enact your miraculous justice, show your deep kindness, and help us to walk humbly with you, both in our own community, and in the world. Amen.

POSTLUDE

*Fanfare Prelude on "St. Thomas"*

Aaron Williams/  
arr. Douglas E. Wagner

### COMMISSION AND BLESSING

### THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

(\*Indicates that those who are able may stand.)

*Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-731944.*

# 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.

**Worship Notes:**

- “A Child in Church” Activity Basket – Children are welcome to choose an activity to bring to the pew with them during the service. Please take your activity packet home with you.
- Joys and Concerns may be written on the cards found on the small table as you entered the sanctuary. You are also welcome to submit your prayer request through our website in advance of the worship service.
- Offering plates can be found at the front and the rear of the sanctuary.
- After the worship service, please take your bulletin home with you.
- In the event of an emergency, please remain seated until instructions have been given.

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***

## PARTICIPATING IN TODAY’S SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church  
Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy  
Sara L. Phelps  
Michael Havay  
John Swanson  
Stephen Egbertson

Ministers to the World  
Associate Pastor  
Director of Music  
Organist/Accompanist  
Deacon in Charge  
Liturgist

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Rev. Maureen R. Frescott  
Wendy Valeri  
Gretchen Davis

Senior Pastor  
Bell Choir Director  
Interim Children’s Coordinator

**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.

**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.

**SHARE FOOD PANTRY** requests for September 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!

**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).

### Financial Summary (as of July 31, 2021)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$89,221	\$103,764	\$(14,544)
Expenses	\$67,737	\$ 71,157	\$( 3,420)
Net Income	\$21,483	\$ 32,607	\$(11,124)

*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).*