

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



*“The Kingdom of God is where our best dreams come from and our truest prayers. We glimpse it at those moments when we find ourselves being better than we are and wiser than we know. The Kingdom of God is where we belong. It is home, and whether we realize it or not, I think we are all of us homesick for it.”*

— Frederick Buechner

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

October 10, 2021

Twentieth 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

*Partita on "Dunlap's Creek"  
(We Live By Faith and Not By Sight)*

attrib. Freeman Lewis/  
arr. David Lasky

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Deep inside us all – old and young alike –

**Many: there is a place of faith,**

One: a place of trust and hope and love,

**Many: without which there can be no peace.**

One: Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them,

**Many: for the Kingdom of God belongs to them."**

One: Let us approach this hour as the children of God that we are.

**Many: With innocence of heart and unlimited hope,**

One: with a trust that makes us vulnerable,

**Many: and with love that is unrestrained and unconditional.**

**All: Come, let us worship God!**

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

We have entered your sanctuary, O God,  
where there are memories of community,  
messages of peace,

and imperatives of prophets;

where we find resurrection and restoration;

where our failings are erased by grace,

our arrogance is overcome by humility,

and our despair is replaced with hope.

We are here, and you are waiting for us to receive these gifts.

Make it possible during our time together

to move closer to you and your will.

Open our hearts, 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.**

SACRAMENT OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

James Christopher Henderson

Scriptural Setting

Questions of Commitment

Response of Members and Friends (in unison)

We receive Jamie as a new person in Christ. We offer our guidance, understanding, and support as he continues to explore and learn about our world as a child of God. We enfold him in our love, seeking together to grow in wisdom and grace, with God's help. We join with his parents and Godparents in telling the Gospel in our midst, so that we may all live for Christ, showing forth God's love for all people. Amen.

Pouring of the Water

The Act of Baptism

Prayer of Blessing

Presentation of Baptism Certificate and Gift

*Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of God be with you. AND ALSO WITH YOU.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 10:17-31

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother."' He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!' And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to

go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' They were greatly astounded and said to one another, 'Then who can be saved?' Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.'

Peter began to say to him, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you.' Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'

SERMON "Jesus... Surely, You Jest?"

ANTHEM *Anthem - Here I Am, Lord* Daniel L. Schutte/  
Wendy Valeri, handbells arr. by Tammera Missel  
Michael Havay, piano and Jason W. Krug

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)

Thank you, God, for meeting us in our need. Mold us into servants of your love, so that others in need will receive these gifts as well. We ask that you take this offering, of our time, our money, our selves, and transform them into powerful resources for your realm. So that no one may be in want, and so that all will know the extent of your love and grace. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE *Jesus Shall Reign* John Hattan/  
arr. Raymond H. Haan

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:

- Church school is available for children Pre-K through grade 7.
- The nursery is not currently staffed. Parents with very young children are welcome to use it during worship.
- 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.
- Please join us in the memorial garden for fellowship after the worship service, weather permitting.
- In the event of an emergency, please remain seated until instructions have been given. An emergency plan is in place for the children in the church school.

The church office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 to 1:00 p.m., and available Monday through Friday by telephone 673-3231 and 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. Maureen R. Frescott

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Wendy Valeri

Gail Wiegand

Gretchen Davis

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Bell Choir Director

Deacon in Charge

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Interim Children's Coordinator

**WE REJOICE TODAY** in the baptism of James Christopher Henderson, son of Reid and Katherine Henderson. James' godparents are Michael Pine and Jennifer Staub.

**KITCHEN KIT DRIVE:** As part of this year's *Be a Blessing* theme, October is 'Do Good' month, and the World Service team is taking this to heart by hosting a Kitchen Kit drive. These kitchen kits are a staple of our **Home Starter Program** – every Home Starter recipient has needed one of these kits and we like to have several on hand. Sign up for items using our SignUp Genius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040e48a8ac2aa4ff2-kitchen>

(on both the SOS and Home Starter pages). We will send you a confirmation email with detailed information. You can shop on your own locally or use our Amazon Wish List.

**SHARE FOOD PANTRY** requests for October include canned fruit, flour, sugar, boxed cake mixes, baking supplies, coffee and 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!

### CHURCH SCHOOL LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS:

Have you ever wanted to participate in Church School but wasn't quite sure it was the right fit? Now is your chance to get involved!! Church School is currently looking for volunteers to join us outside once or twice a month. We are looking for adults that could help us with crafts, story time and/or games. No planning or preparing lessons required. If you are interested please contact Gretchen Davis at [churchschool@ccamherst.org](mailto:churchschool@ccamherst.org).

### Financial Summary

(as of August 31, 2021)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$111,743	\$132,381	\$(20,638)
Expenses	\$ 99,594	\$102,280	\$( 2,686)
Net Income	\$ 12,149	\$ 30,101	\$(17,952)

*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).*

**ARE YOU RECEIVING EMAILS FROM CHURCH?** We are hearing from a few folks that they do not always receive emails sent from our domain (@ccamherst.org). Two weeks ago we sent out *News from the Pews*, and another email about the capital campaign and a matching gift. If you did not see them in your inbox, please check your spam/junk/promotions folders. If you did not receive them, please let us know. We are trying to understand out how wide spread this problem is.

**DONATED ALTAR FLOWERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME:** Flowers can be given to remember a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion. The donor arranges with a local florist to have their chosen flowers delivered, or can create their own arrangement and deliver it on Saturday. After the service they may take the flowers home or donate them to someone in need of some cheer. There are many openings in the coming months. Contact Andrea in the church office to schedule a Sunday.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** on Sunday mornings to help run the live-stream camera and laptop during worship. It's easy and we are hoping to train a few more folks so the rotation is easy on everyone. Contact Doug Topliffe if you'd like to learn.

PS: Donations towards the cost of this new technology continue to be gratefully accepted.

**SLEIGH BELLS MARKETPLACE:** The Woman's Association is now seeking items for their Sleigh Bells Marketplace Auction, taking place online November 8 through 28. Please consider what you might be able to donate. Some ideas for auction items include gift cards to restaurants or other local businesses, Amherst memorabilia, artwork, antiques, professional services, vacation stays, etc.

**WA members will be at the church to accept items from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 16.** All proceeds from the auction will go to support our church and community charities.

**THE GREATER NASHUA CROP WALK** will take place on Saturday, October 24. Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. and the walk steps off at 1:30. For more information, visit <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/event/nashuanh>

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



October 17: Job 38:1-7, (34-41) and Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c  
Isaiah 53:4-12 and Psalm 91:9-16  
Hebrews 5:1-10  
Mark 10:35-45

October 24: Job 42:1-6, 10-17 and Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22)  
Jeremiah 31:7-9 and Psalm 126  
Hebrews 7:23-28  
Mark 10:46-52

*Sunday, October 10, 2021*

### **Our Church Calendar**

**October 10—16, 2021**

Some 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	9:50 a.m.	Church School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship—Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship—Memorial Garden
Monday	10:00 a.m.	Woman's Association—Vestry
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Diaconate
	7:00 p.m.	Trustees of the Facility
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	4:00 p.m.	Communications Team
Thursday	5:00 p.m.	Reopening Taskforce
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir—Sanctuary
	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class—Vestry
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
Saturday	2:00 p.m.	Sleigh Bells Marketplace Donation Drop Off