

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



*“There is integrity in expressing the fullness of your emotions,
in not pretending that everything is okay when it’s not,
and in releasing your pain. Job’s wife dares to ask the question,
and begins the process that helps propel them both to restoration.”*

—Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

October 3, 2021

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m.

World Communion Sunday

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

Pastorale on "My God, Thy Table Now is Spread"

Franklin D. Ashdown/
arr. Edward Miller

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come before God as we are in this moment.

Many: We come before God as our true, authentic selves.

One: Come, all who are joyous.

Many: Come, all who are content.

One: Come, all who are struggling.

Many: Come, all who are crippled by pain and suffering.

One: Come to worship a God who heals.

Many: Come to worship a God who comforts.

One: Come to worship a God who forgives.

Many: Come to worship a God who rejoices with us.

All: Come, let us worship God, who meets us wherever we are!

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

Renewing God,

you have created us and you sustain us.

We come with gratitude in our hearts

for these moments when we can ease the pace of our lives

and listen for your voice.

Create a spirit within us

that truly draws us toward you

and toward one another:

a deep spirit,

perceptive, gentle, and bold.

Clear our minds, open our hearts,

and touch us with your presence and your power.

We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray to you using these words:

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 SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We welcome all people to join in receiving this sacrament. Children may participate at the discretion of their parents.

COMMUNION PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BREAKING OF THE BREAD, POURING OF THE CUP

CONSECRATING PRAYER

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

The bread and juice have been placed in the pews. The bread is gluten, dairy and egg free. We will be invited to eat the bread and drink the juice together. After receiving communion, please return the empty wrappers and communion cups to the holders on the back of the pew.

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison)

We give thanks, loving God, for the bond of this ritual and communal meal that links us to all who have called upon your name. May your wisdom grow within us. May your word inspire us. May the nourishment of this bread and cup strengthen us for the journey, as you send us out into the world as people of courage, compassion, and commitment. Amen.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Job 1:1; 2:1-10

There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and

down on it.” The Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason.” Then Satan answered the Lord, “Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives. But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.” The Lord said to Satan, “Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life.”

So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes.

Then his wife said to him, “Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die.” But he said to her, “You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

SERMON “The Good and the Bad”

ANTHEM *Be Thou My Vision* arr. Alice Parker
Sara Phelps, soprano
Michael Havay, piano

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)

We thank you, O God, for the opportunity to share in your creative and restorative work among your people. Because you have given to us, we have much to give. May these gifts bring light to those who walk in darkness, hope to those who live in despair, and a healing balm to those who long for grace. These offerings express our gratitude and our aspiration to be more fully the body of Christ. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE *Chant Héroïque* George Blake

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. 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

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

Gail Wiegand

Wendy Valeri

Gretchen Davis

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Bell Choir Director

Interim Children's Coordinator

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 continues on October 6, 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.*

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.

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.

SLEIGH BELLS MARKETPLACE: The Woman's Association is now seeking items for their Sleigh Bells Marketplace Auction, taking place online November 8 through 21. 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.

Our Church Calendar

October 3—9, 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
	4:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group
	7:00 p.m.	Small Group Ministry
Monday	10:00 a.m.	Woman's Association— Vestry
Tuesday	1:30 p.m.	Small Group Ministry
	6:00 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	<i>A New Look at the Old Testament</i>
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir—Sanctuary
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir— Sanctuary

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:



October 10: Job 23:1-9, 16-17 and Psalm 22:1-15
Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 and Psalm 90:12-17
Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31

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

Sunday, October 3, 2021