

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



*“The day the power of love overrules the love of power,
the world will know peace.”*

— Mahatma Gandhi

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

December 5, 2021

Second Sunday of Advent

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

*Of the Father's Love Begotten
(Divinum mysterium)*

13th C. plainsong/
arr. Wilbur Held

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Riley Family

One: We light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas in anticipation of the coming of the light of Christ.

Many: The first candle reminds us that we wait in hope for that light.

One: Today we light the second candle of Advent, the candle of Peace.

Many: This candle reminds us that Jesus came into the world as the Prince of Peace.

One: This candle reminds us of our dreams for peace in our nations, neighborhoods, and families.

Many: This candle reminds us that to have peace in the world, we must have peace in our hearts.

One: This candle reminds us that when we offer each other the sign of peace, we offer the presence of Christ.

All: We light this candle for Peace.

(Two purple candles are lit)

Please join us as we pray the words that Jesus taught us in The Lord's Prayer:

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.

SONG OF PRAISE

Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

SERMON

"The Voice of One"

ANTHEM

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

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.

ORGAN PRAYER RESPONSE

INVITATION TO OUR OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Peaceful and ever-present God, your wondrous deeds cause hope and joy to abound, and your steadfast love and encouragement prod us to live in harmony with one another. Open our spirits to receive these gracious gifts, even as we bring our offerings to share with you, so peace may flourish within and among us. 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 will be available at the door at the beginning of the service, and the juice will be served in the pews during Communion. 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.

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.

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Franklin Ritter

(*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 Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:



December 12: Luke 1:39-55
Creative Worship—Be Joyful
Third Sunday of Advent—Joy

December 19: Micah 5:2-5a
Fourth Sunday of Advent—Love

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 community room for fellowship after the worship service.
- 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

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Russ Demarest

Andrea Cyr

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Director of Music/Liturgist

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Videographer

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy

Wendy Valeri

Gretchen Davis

Associate Pastor

Bell Choir Director

Interim Children's Coordinator

CALLING BABY JESUS'S: The production team of this year's Christmas pageant needs help finding our former Baby Jesus's! We are compiling the names and dates of children who have portrayed baby Jesus in previous CCA Christmas Pageants, and we need your help. If you know any children who have played Baby Jesus in the past, please contact Gretchen Davis with names, years, and even a picture of that special moment if you have one! You can email Gretchen at churchschool@ccamherst.org.

DONATED ALTAR FLOWERS 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.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for December 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!

Financial Summary

(as of October 31, 2021)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$172,012	\$189,613	\$(17,601)
Expenses	\$169,591	\$166,379	\$ 3,212
Net Income	\$ 2,421	\$ 23,235	\$(20,814)

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).



Advent Vespers Service

Wednesday, December 8 at 7:30 p.m.

In the busy weeks that lead up to Christmas we can sometimes lose sight of “the reason for the season” of Advent. Advent is meant to be a peaceful time of anticipation and preparation, a time of joy and hope. Advent is also a time for those who aren’t feeling joyous to find a space for their uncertainty, apprehension, and grief. Advent gives us permission to honor the part of ourselves that is longing to slow down, to take a breath, to *be* instead of *do*. It also

provides us an opportunity to find comfort in the darkness. Join us for a time of quiet prayer, reflective readings, candle lighting, and meditative music. Come experience Advent and take a break from the busyness of Christmas. Come as you are and just be.

Our Church Calendar

December 5—11, 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—Community Room
	12:30 p.m.	Small Group Ministry
	6:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Board—Parlor
Tuesday	1:30 p.m.	Small Group Ministry
	6:00 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting—Parlor
	4:00 p.m.	Communications Team
	7:30 p.m.	Advent Vespers Service
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir—Sanctuary
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir—Sanctuary



THE SYMBOLISM OF OUR CHRISMON TREE



Chrismons proclaim our Lord Jesus Christ through the use of symbols. These symbols are interdenominational and the heritage of all Christians. They tell the story of God's plan for our salvation that, through faith in Jesus Christ, we might be restored to God in a community of love, the Christian church.

All of the Chrismons used to decorate the tree are in white and gold to symbolize the purity, perfection, majesty and glory of the Son of God, and the pearls symbolize the Word of God. The tiny white lights that adorn the tree represent Christ, the light of the world.

Cross—A reminder of our Lord's redeeming work for the salvation of humankind. Different forms of the cross point to various aspects of our Savior's work.

Stars—Five points, Epiphany; seven points, Gifts of the Spirit; eight points, Holy Baptism.

Circle—Eternity, the eternal love of God and eternal life in God's kingdom.

Daisy—The innocence of the Christ Child.

Fish—An ancient symbol for the Christ. The letters of the Greek word for fish, IXOYC, are the initials for "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior."

Greek Cross—All parts of equal length. The balanced form, more adaptable in design, was widely used by early Greeks.

Rose—The nativity of our Lord, his human birth, our Lord's human mother.

Iota Chi—The first two letters of the Greek name *Jesus* in Greek.

Triangle—The Triune God.

Shepherd's Crook with Alpha and Omega—The Alpha and Omega, first and last letters in the Greek alphabet, refer to the beginning and the end, or the eternity of our Lord. The shepherd's staff is the symbol for Jesus the Good Shepherd, and the figure of the cross can also be seen.

Butterfly—Our Lord's resurrection.

Latin Cross with Alpha and Omega—While no one today knows the shape of the cross on which our Lord died, the church uses this form, the Latin cross, most widely. Early Christians often combined the Alpha and Omega with the cross to declare the Savior's divinity.

Crown—King of kings and Lord of lords.