

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



*"One filled with joy preaches without preaching."*

—Mother Theresa

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

December 12, 2021

Third Sunday of Advent  
Creative Worship

10:00 a.m.

## *Be Joyful*

### GATHERING CHIMES

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

### GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

### PRELUDE

*Pastel on "Maiden Mother, Meek and Mild" /  
Improvisation on "Ave Maria"*

Charles Callahan

### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Bolin 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: The second candle reminds us of our dreams for Peace.

**Many: Today we light the third candle, the candle of Joy.**

One: This candle reminds us that God wants us to find joy in the beauty of Creation.

**Many: This candle reminds us that God wants us to find joy in being with our family and friends.**

One: This candle reminds us that God offers us joy, even when we are weighed down by sadness.

**Many: This candle reminds us that God offers us joy, in the story of a baby born in a manger.**

**All: We light this candle for Joy.**

*(Two purple candles and one pink candle 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.

SCRIPTURE LITANY

Luke 1:39-55

One: In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

**Left: When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb.**

**Right: And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry,**

One: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

**Left: And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?**

**Right: For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.**

One: And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

One: And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,

**Left: and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,**

**Right: for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.**

One: Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

**Left: for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.**

**Right: His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.**

One: He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

**Left: He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;**

**Right: he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.**

One: He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

**Left: according to the promise he made to our ancestors,**

**Right: to Abraham and to his descendants forever."**

MESSAGE

"Be Joyful"

OUR OFFERINGS OF JOY

ANTHEM

*Carol of the Bells*

Bell Choir

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

What a joy to give! What a delight to join our efforts to your purposes, amazing God! You inspire us to lift up the weak, to stand against injustice, to work for harmony among all. May our offerings spread the knowledge of your ways across this earth, widening the circle of inclusion to embrace all your children, in Jesus' name. Amen.

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

\*BENEDICTION

**Left: May God bless you and keep you,**

**Right: May God's light and grace shine upon you.**

**Left: May your heart be open to the blessings that surround you;**

**Right: May these blessings bring joy to your spirit.**

**Left: May thankfulness rise up within you,**

**Right: Not just during this season, but in every season.**

**Left: May your gratitude lighten your burdens,**

**Right: And inspire you to bring joy to others.**

**All: May the gift of life and Creation fill our hearts and minds,  
and may we rejoice in the coming of Christmas. Amen.**

\*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*POSTLUDE

*Joy, Joy, Joy*

Bill Cain

(\*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.
- Our church nursery is open, but not currently staffed, and is available when parents with young children feel the need for a quiet, safe space to go to during worship. A monitor is available to watch and listen to the service.
- 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 a time of fellowship after the worship service. Coffee and beverages are offered, and masks are required when not consuming beverages.
- 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  
 Michael Havay  
 Wendy Valeri  
 Russ Demarest  
 Tim Wiegand

Ministers to the World  
 Senior Pastor  
 Associate Pastor  
 Organist/Accompanist  
 Bell Choir Director  
 Deacon in Charge  
 Videographer

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Sara L. Phelps  
 Gretchen Davis

Director of Music  
 Interim Children's Coordinator

**A NEW LOOK AT THE OLD TESTAMENT:**

Is the OLD Testament still relevant today? Who wrote it and why? This adult ed video lecture series continues on December 15 at 10:00 a.m. We will watch the video together as a group and then have a discussion facilitated by Pastor Maureen.

All are welcome! Please RSVP to Pastor Maureen 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*).

**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 November 30, 2021)

|            | YTD<br><u>Actual</u> | YTD<br><u>Budget</u> | <u>Difference</u> |
|------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Income     | \$205,225            | \$217,934            | \$(12,709)        |
| Expenses   | \$204,241            | \$200,017            | \$ 4,224          |
| Net Income | \$ 984               | \$ 17,917            | \$(16,933)        |

*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).*



## **Christmas Eve Worship**

is IN-PERSON and ONLINE this year!

**Join us for our  
Traditional Candlelight Service  
at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.  
on Christmas Eve**

A service of lessons and carols featuring music from our Organist, Michael Havay, our Director of Music, Sara Phelps, and Wendy Valeri and our full Bell Choir, along with readings from our youth, and a special showing of our recorded Christmas pageant put on by our church school children.

We'll hear a Christmas Message from Pastor Maureen and Pastor Kate, and we'll end by SINGING "Silent Night" (inside) and "Joy to the World" (outside) by candlelight.

Families are welcome to attend either service. Masks are required inside. In the event we reach capacity for our in-person services, an overflow space will be set up in our community room where the livestream will be shown.

The service will be livestreamed on Facebook at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and will be available on our website at 8:00 p.m.

All are welcome as we worship and celebrate the birth of Jesus together!

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



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

December 26: Luke 2:41-52

*Sunday, December 12, 2021*

## **Our Church Calendar**

**December 12—18, 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         |
|           | 11:30 a.m. | Christian Ed—Parlor               |
|           | 11:30 a.m. | Racial Justice Group—Youth Room   |
|           | 6:00 p.m.  | Senior High Youth Group           |
| Monday    | 6:00 p.m.  | Budget & Finance Team             |
| Tuesday   | 7:00 p.m.  | Diaconate                         |
|           | 7:00 p.m.  | Trustees of the Facility          |
| Wednesday | 10:00 a.m. | A New Look at the Old Testament   |
| Thursday  | 6:00 p.m.  | Bell Choir—Sanctuary              |
|           | 6:30 p.m.  | Confirmation—Vestry               |
|           | 7:30 p.m.  | Chancel Choir—Sanctuary           |
| Saturday  | 1:00 p.m.  | Memorial Service for Carl Johnson |