

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



"The world isn't fair, Calvin."

"I know Dad, but why isn't it ever unfair in my favor?"

– Bill Watterson, *The Essential Calvin and Hobbes: A Calvin and Hobbes Treasury*

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

January 16, 2022

Creative Worship

10:00 a.m.

Work for Justice

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

O Could I Speak the Matchless Worth

Marilyn Thompson
(based on a tune by W.A. Mozart)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

adapted from Psalm 19

One: The heavens are telling of the glory of God;

Many: and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

One: Your law, O God, is perfect, reviving our souls,

Many: and your commandments are sure, rejoicing our hearts.

One: Let our words and worship, the meditation of our hearts, be acceptable to you,

Many: O God, our rock and our redeemer!

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

Lord, who lifts us up, reside in our hearts today. As we settle in for this hour of worship, help us to listen closely for your word to us. Remind us that you are always with us, lifting us up when we have fallen low, teaching us what it means to live with abundant hearts. Give us confidence in your presence, so that we may go into your world ready to witness to your love through our works and our deeds.

We pray all this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray saying:

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.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 20:1-19

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

SERMON

"The Gorilla in the Room"

SERMON RESPONSE

At this time, you are invited to come forward with your slip of melting paper, and give up your worries to God. Take a moment to stir the water, and watch your fears melt away.

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.

ANTHEM

Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Sara Phelps, soprano
Michael Havay, organ

arr. Roy Ringwald

INVITATION TO OUR OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Loving and righteous God, you are far more generous to us, and to all who abide in your kingdom, than we could ever deserve or earn. May this offering be a symbol of our understanding that we have more than we need. Make us as generous with others as you have been with us. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*POSTLUDE

Psalm 100: Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord Justin Heinrich Knecht/
edited by Jon Spong

(*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:

January 23 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 30 Luke 4:21-30
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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.
- 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
 Roger Hooper
 Linda Lannin
 Doug Topliffe

Wendy Valeri
 Gretchen Davis

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

Bell Choir Director
 Interim Children's Coordinator

THE RACIAL JUSTICE GROUP AT CCA is dedicated to learning about the impact of racism on God's world and our own hearts and minds, and taking action to bring about justice and the kin-dom of God in our community. Through reading, discussion, and service, CCA's Racial Justice Group seeks to live more fully into God's call to love our neighbor as ourselves.

The Racial Justice Group meets every second Sunday of the month after worship. All who seek to learn more are welcome to join—you do not need to have participated in past meetings to join the conversation now! If you are interested in participating, please contact Pastor Kate or Steve Boczenowski.

INFORMATIONAL CONGREGATION MEETING on January 30: The Budget and Finance Team will provide an update on the current financial status of the church, as well as a preliminary budget overview for the next fiscal year (FY23). This will be a hybrid meeting, held in the sanctuary and online, beginning at 11:00 a.m. A link and password for online participation will be emailed next week. This meeting is for informational purposes only, we will not be voting on anything.

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 (dtopliff@rcn.com) if you'd like to learn.

Our Church Calendar

January 16—22, 2022

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. 10:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Church School Worship—Sanctuary Christian Ed Team
Monday	10:00 a.m.	Woman's Association Board
Wednesday	10:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Wednesday Morning Adult Ed Pastoral Relations Team
Thursday	5:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Reopening Team Confirmation Class

A NEW LOOK AT THE OLD TESTAMENT: Is the OLD Testament still relevant today? Who wrote it and why? Join us as we 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 January 19, and meets virtually every first and third Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. 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 January 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!

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES: It is important to us to have accurate contact information for you. Please take a moment to check your information in the church directory, especially phone numbers. Many folks use only their cell phones now, but haven't updated that in our directory. You can view your directory information in the member section of our website, and if an update is needed, you can use the Contact Update form on that page.

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.

Financial Summary
(as of December 31, 2021)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$242,121	\$251,476	\$(9,355)
Expenses	\$238,073	\$236,352	\$ 1,722
Net Income	\$ 4,048	\$ 15,124	\$(11,077)

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).

Sunday, January 16, 2022