

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



*“There comes a time when it is vitally important for your spiritual health to drop your clothes, look in the mirror, and say, ‘Here I am. This is the body-like-no-other that my life has shaped. I live here. This is my soul’s address.’”*

— Barbara Brown Taylor

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

January 23, 2022

Third Sunday after Epiphany

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

*Prelude in F Major*

George F. Bruce

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: O God, you are the gathering One  
who calls us into community with those gathered here in body and in spirit;

**Many: to love and listen,  
to support and heal.**

One: You are the gathering One  
who calls us into community with all people in all places;

**Many: to bring justice and hope,  
liberation and truth.**

One: You are the gathering One  
who calls us into community with the whole of creation;

**Many: to live in peace and harmony,  
to cherish and renew.**

One: You are the gathering One  
who calls us into community as the body of Christ;

**Many: knowing that we need all parts of the body  
if we are to be whole.**

**All: Let us worship the God  
who makes us one!**

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

Gift-giving God, you call us together,  
with our different gifts,  
our different understandings,  
our different experiences.

You call us together,  
to share what makes us unique,  
to build each other up,  
to serve each other in love.

You call us together,  
to pray, to listen, to speak.  
To be refreshed  
so that we may go out and serve.

You call us together  
in the name of the One  
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.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be?

As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

SERMON "Embodying Christ"

ANTHEM *Incline My Heart* Erin K. Downey & Gail Downey  
Wendy Valeri, bells  
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)

Receive our joy, O God, along with our gifts. We reach out with this offering to be your hands and feet and heart—in and through our church. Through our shared life in this community of faith, create in us the image of Christ. Let us share with the whole world the blessings we receive from you. Amen.

\*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

\*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*POSTLUDE *Little Prelude in D minor* attrib. J.S. Bach

(\*Indicates that those who are able may stand.)

# 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](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

Roger Hooper

Gretchen Davis

Vicky Leknes

Tim Wiegand

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Bell Choir Director

Deacon in Charge

Interim Children's Coordinator

Children's Time

Videographer

### **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.

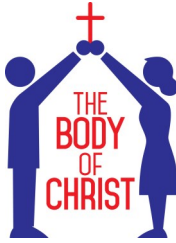
**SHARE FOOD PANTRY** requests for January include canned ham, canned meats, side dishes (seasoned pasta mix, Hamburger Helper, etc.), ravioli and Beef-a-Roni. Donations should be brought directly to the SHARE Center in Milford; if you are unsure where, please call their office at 673-9898. Many thanks for your continuing support!

### **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.

*Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-731944.*

*Portions of our liturgy are adapted from the Monthly Prayers page of the Christian Aid website. <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/> and Rev Gord, Worship Offerings. <http://worshipofferings.blogspot.ca/>*



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

January 30 Luke 4:14-30  
*Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*

February 6 Luke 5:1-11  
*Fifth Sunday after Epiphany*

## **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 23, 2022*

## **Our Church Calendar**

**January 23—29, 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	10:00 a.m.	Worship—Sanctuary
Monday	10:00 a.m.	Woman's Association—Vestry
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	World Service Team
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	5:00 p.m.	Stewardship Team
Thursday	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Parents