

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



*“As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn’t leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I’d still be in prison.”*

—Nelson Mandela

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

January 30, 2022

Fourth 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

*Meirionydd (The Voice of God is Calling)*

Mahlon Balderston

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: O God, of heaven and earth  
of all nations and all peoples,

**Many: Reveal yourself  
to all gathered before you today.**

One: Reveal yourself  
to those who are seeking guidance,

**Many: Reveal yourself  
to those who are seeking strength,**

One: Reveal yourself  
to those who are seeking comfort,

**Many: Reveal yourself  
to all who are seeking relief,**

One: Reveal yourself  
to those who are powerful,

**Many: Reveal yourself  
to all who are powerless,**

One: Reveal yourself  
to ordinary people

**Many: in their everyday lives,**

**All: that this world  
might reflect your love  
and your glory.**

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

God of Jubilee,  
God of freedom for the oppressed,  
God of healing for the afflicted,  
we gather to share your Good News.  
We gather to be transformed as the world is changed.  
In this time of worship, may we be fed in body and soul.  
As we sing and pray, as we greet others,  
as we open our hearts to your presence,  
may your Spirit fall upon us.  
May we be refreshed, anointed, and empowered –  
to serve others in your name.

We ask 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

Luke 4:14-30

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.”

*Continued next page.*

When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

SERMON

“Cliff Hanger”

ANTHEM

*There Is a Balm in Gilead*  
Sara Phelps, soprano  
Michael Havay, organ

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)

For the abundance of your unwavering love, which rescues and revives us, O God, we are most grateful. We present here practical expressions of thanksgiving – in our time, talent, and treasure, to extend your purposes in the world. May this offering scatter seeds of love in life-changing ways. May we learn from all we serve, that all of us may grow in grace. Amen.

\*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

\*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*POSTLUDE

*Go Forth for God*

Robert J. Powell

(\*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.
- 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  
 Roger Hooper  
 Stephanie Dumoski

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

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Wendy Valeri  
 Gretchen Davis

Bell Choir Director  
 Interim Children's Coordinator

**BEWARE OF FALLING SNOW AND ICE:** It is that time of year again when we must remind everyone that snow and ice may fall from our roof at any time. Please use caution when in our driveway, and do not walk too close to the building.

**SHARE FOOD PANTRY** requests for February include canned fruit, flour, sugar, boxed cake mixes and 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!

**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.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY:** 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. This meeting is for informational purposes only, we will not be voting on anything. All members are encouraged to attend.

### 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).*

**HOME STARTER BATHROOM KIT DRIVE:** Last May, with your generosity, we were able to assemble 20 essential bathroom kits for our Home Starter program but over the holidays we delivered our last kit. Individuals who are transitioning into their own living space often have very few possessions. Imagine moving into an apartment with nothing more than a few changes of clothes and other small things! The World Service team is hosting another 'Bathroom Kit Drive' during through Feb 20th. You can purchase items at a store of your choice, or use our Amazon Bathroom Kit List.

For more information visit <https://www.ccamherst.org/homestarter/> or <https://www.ccamherst.org/sos/>.

**CHURCH CLOSINGS DUE TO BAD WEATHER:** As many know, New England weather is ever changing and at times can be quite unpredictable. In the case of bad weather and the need to cancel an in-person worship service, we will post an announcement on WMUR Channel 9 television, and on our website and Facebook page.

Of course, that doesn't mean you will miss out on Sunday morning worship. Our live streamed service will still be available for folks to tune to at 10:00 a.m. on our Facebook page, and we will continue to upload the recorded service by noon.

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



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

February 13 Luke 6:17-26  
*Sixth Sunday after Epiphany*

**LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING:** For the next four weeks, Church School will be exploring and learning all about Heifer International ([www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)). Heifer is an organization that provides livestock and environmentally sound agricultural training to improve the lives of those who struggle daily. They work in over 21 countries around the world and in the United States.

In the coming weeks the children will be participating in a coin collection challenge. Coins will be collected through February 20 and the donation will go towards buying livestock for families in need. If you or your family are interested in participating please contact Gretchen Davis at [churchschool@ccamherst.org](mailto:churchschool@ccamherst.org).

<b>Our Church Calendar</b>		
<b>January 30—February 5, 2022</b>		
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.	Congregational Meeting
Monday	10:00 a.m.	Woman's Association—Vestry
Tuesday	1:30 p.m.	Small Group Ministry
	5:00 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday Morning Adult Ed
Thursday	5:00 p.m.	Reopening Team

*Sunday, January 30, 2022*