

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



"Listen--are you breathing just a little, and calling it a life?"

— Mary Oliver

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

February 13, 2022

Sixth 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

*Improvisation on "Azmon"
(O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing)*

Carl Gläser/
arr. Douglas E. Wagner

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Rejoice! God is with us in this place.

Many: Calling us to the costs and joys of discipleship.

One: Happy are we

Many: when our treasures cannot be quantified.

One: Happy are we

Many: when our knowledge is tempered by mystery.

One: Happy are we

Many: when our pain is held in the balm of love.

One: Happy are we

Many: when our delight comes from beyond ourselves.

All: Come, let us worship our God in this place. Let us learn how to let the power of Christ transform us.

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

Almighty God, you compel us to reexamine our lives. Through the words and actions of Jesus, you tell us to honor the poor and hungry, the grieving and forsaken, and call them blessed. We are left to ask, if you are for them, how dare we be against them? You pronounce shame upon the greedy and pretentious, the arrogant and deceitful. If you are against them, how dare we honor and acclaim them? God, in this worship and throughout our lives, embolden us to embrace your values, so that we may meet all of your children on the level plain of your love.

We pray all this in the name of Jesus, who reconciled the world to God, 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.

Scriptural Setting

Questions of Commitment

Response of Members and Friends (in unison)

We receive Hailey as a new person in Christ. We offer our guidance, understanding, and support as she continues to explore and learn about our world as a child of God. We enfold her in our love, seeking together to grow in wisdom and grace, with God's help. We join with her parents and her family in telling the Gospel in our midst, so that we may all live for Christ, showing forth God's love for all people. Amen.

Pouring of the Water

The Act of Baptism

Prayer of Blessing

Presentation of Baptism Certificate and Gift

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

United Church of Christ Statement of Faith

One: We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

Left: You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

Right: You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

Left: You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

Right: In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

Left: You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

Right: You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others,

Left: to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

Right: You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

All: *Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.*

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 6:17-26

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said: 'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. 'Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. 'Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. 'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

'But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. 'Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. 'Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. 'Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.'

SERMON

"The Costs and Joys of Discipleship"

ANTHEM

The Gift of Love
Sara Phelps, soprano
Michael Havay, piano

Hal Hopson

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)

Abundant God, you lavish your love on all people, not distinguishing between rich or poor, prestigious or outcast. As we pray before your alter today, may those of us with more recognize our call to contribute more, and those of us with less feel as honored as Christ himself. We pray that through this offering, our community becomes a clearer reflection of God's Kingdom, on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*POSTLUDE

*Epilogue on "Lobe den Herren"
(Praise to the Lord)*

Lani Smith

(*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.*

*Portions of today's liturgy are adapted from prayers
written by Katherine Hawker, and posted on Liturgy Outside.*

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:



February 20 Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
*Creative Worship—Lead with Love
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany*

February 27 Exodus 34:29-35
Transfiguration

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 this morning. Our membership is open to all those who choose to walk with us in our witness. **The next new member orientations will be held March 10 and March 15.** New members will be formally received on Sunday, March 27. 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. 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
 Sue Ruggiero
 Andrea Cyr

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

Wendy Valeri
 Gretchen Davis

Bell Choir Director
 Interim Children's Coordinator

WE REJOICE TODAY in the baptism of Hailey Elizabeth Keane, daughter of Courtney and Garret Keane, and granddaughter of Judy Ferraro.

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given in celebration of Hailey Elizabeth Keane's baptism, and in loving memory of her grandfather, John Patrick Ferraro and great grandmother, Irma Vuille.

LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING: For the next few weeks, Church School will be exploring and learning all about Heifer International (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.

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.

Financial Summary

(as of January 31, 2022)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$282,930	\$280,019	\$2,912
Expenses	\$273,160	\$270,279	\$2,880
Net Income	\$ 9,771	\$ 9,739	\$ 31

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, February 13, 2022

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/>.

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!

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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: We are so excited to announce that Vacation Bible School is coming to our church this summer. Have you been dreaming of an island getaway? Then plan on joining us for *Discovery on Adventure Island VBS!* This weeklong adventure will take place August 15—19 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Information on registration will be coming soon.

We are currently forming our support team and are looking for individuals for publicity, decorating, snack coordinating, leading small groups, crafting, music and more. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Gretchen Davis at churchschool@ccamherst.org.

Our Church Calendar

February 13—19, 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
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship
	11:30 a.m.	Middle High Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	Woman's Association
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	A New Look at the Old Testament
	6:00 p.m.	Budget and Finance Team
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class