

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



“It’s a good thing to have all the props pulled out from under us occasionally. It gives us some sense of what is rock under our feet, and what is sand.”

– Madeleine L’Engle

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

March 13, 2022

Second Sunday in Lent

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

*Partita on "Showalter"
(Leaning on the Everlasting Arms)*

Jon Spong

CALL TO WORSHIP and THE LORD'S PRAYER

One: People of God, what do we seek
as we gather to worship?

Many: **A love that never ceases,
a creativity that designed the universe,
a hope that cannot be quenched,
a pursuit of healing and reconciliation:
These are the things that are of God.**

One: In this season of Lent, as we make our way to the cross,
we remember the steps that led Christ there:

Many: **Anger, betrayal and fear,
but also trust in God, love for humanity,
and the promise of new life.**

One: In this season of Lent, as we make our way to the cross,
we strive to follow Christ's example:

Many: **To admit that anger, betrayal and fear are part of life.
To embrace trust in God, love for humanity,
and the promise of a new life.**

All: **Let us continue our journey,
and let us worship God.**

One: Gracious and loving God, we recognize your Spirit moving among us now,
as we pray the words that Jesus taught us:

All: 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.

LENTEN LITANY OF CONFESSION and WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Your story stretches from age to age, O God, and you call us to be a part of it.

All: But we have forgotten your story, left the book to gather dust on the shelf, hoping the bits we remember here and there will be enough.

One: And still you speak, bringing life and love into being.

All: But so often we want to write our own story, taking center stage as star of our own play.

One: Forgive us, O God, for we have not sought your word as a light to our path.

All: Forgive us, O God, for we have assumed your word was captive on an ancient page.

One: Forgive us, O God, for we have relied on our own strength, rather than on your living wisdom.

All: Forgive us, O God, and guide us as we return to you.

One: People of God, hear this good news.

God's covenant with us is true.

God is faithful even when we fail.

Many: Through the Holy Spirit, God gives us the gift of grace and forgives us.

We believe in the good news

that we are set free to live as children of God.

Thanks be to God, and Amen!

CHILDREN'S TIME

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

When evildoers assail me
to devour my flesh—
my adversaries and foes—
they shall stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident.

One thing I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.

Now my head is lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud,
be gracious to me and answer me!
“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!”
Your face, Lord, do I seek.
Do not hide your face from me.

Do not turn your servant away in anger,
you who have been my help.
Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,
O God of my salvation!
If my father and mother forsake me,
the Lord will take me up.

Teach me your way, O Lord,
and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.
Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they are breathing out violence.

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord; be strong,
and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!

SERMON

“Living with Fear”

ANTHEM

What Wondrous Love is This?

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

SHARING OUR OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

For life sustaining gifts that we so often take for granted – for shelter, food, and warmth; for your steadfast love that awakens us and rescues us from our wandering ways; for your word that guides and heals us – we give you thanks, gracious God. As we invest a part of all you entrust to us to further the ministries of this church, may we show others the immeasurable riches of your grace. Make this church a beacon of hope for our community and our world. Amen.

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*POSTLUDE

Shche Ne Vmerla Ukrainy
(Ukraine National Anthem)

Mykhailo Verbytsky

(*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 this morning. Our membership is open to all those who choose to walk with us in our witness. **The next new member orientation will be held 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

Gretchen Davis

Mark and Fran Baddeley

Doug Topliffe

Wendy Valeri

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Interim Children's Coordinator

Deacons in Charge

Videographer

Bell Choir Director

PARENTS GROUP MEET 'N GREET: Are you a parent of a child in second grade or under? Do you want to connect with other parents with similar values to talk about raising kind, faithful, resilient kids? Join us after church today for a time to meet other young parents, socialize, and dream about what Parents Group can be in the future!

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 March include pancake mix and syrup, condiments, cooking sauces and seasonings, cooking oils, jelly, and cold cereal. 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!

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN for our VBS Discovery on Adventure Island 2022! Children from preschool to rising fifth grade can register at www.myvbs.org/CCAmherst.

But why should we let the kids have all the fun? We are also in need of adults and/or teenagers that would like to help us out during the week of August 15-19. We are still in need of a toddler class coordinator, decorators, island guides and more. Please contact Gretchen Davis at churchschool@ccamherst.org if you are interested.

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:



March 20 Matthew 6:5-15
Creative Worship—Pray Often
Third Sunday in Lent

March 27 Isaiah 55:1-9
Fourth Sunday in Lent



LOVE REMAINS

What is One Great Hour of Sharing®?

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Church's Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. You can donate online on our church website (please put OGHS in the memo line) or use the pew envelopes, or send a check to Andrea, made out to the *Congregational Church of Amherst*, with *OGHS* in the memo line. Thank you for your caring and generous donations!

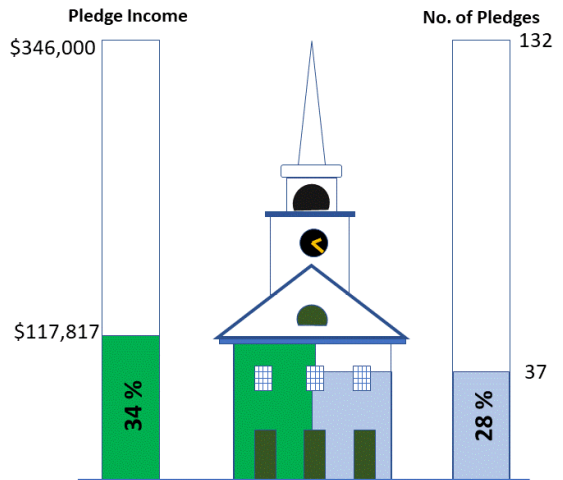
LENTEN STUDY SERIES: For five Wednesday evenings during Lent we will gather on Zoom to discuss **Kate Bowler's and Jessica Ritchie's** wonderful book: ***Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals For a Life of Imperfection.***

Written gently and with humor, *Good Enough* is a devotional with short entries that are designed to be read each day during the 40 days of Lent. The book offers daily reassurance for all those who need to hear that there are some things we can fix—and some things we can't. And it's okay that life isn't always better.

Pastor Maureen and Pastor Kate will alternate as facilitators of the sessions. We have sold out of our copies in the office, but the book is available to purchase on Amazon. Each session will focus on the daily devotions for the previous seven days. If you don't have the time or the space to add a daily reading to your plate join us anyway! We'll pull out quotes and passages to seed our discussion and all are welcome to participate!

RSVP to pastormaureen@ccamherst.org to receive the Zoom link, or find it on our church website in the member's section.

FAITH PROMISE: Our 2022-2023 fiscal year **Stewardship Campaign** is underway. As of Thursday, March 10, we have received pledges from 37 families, totaling \$117,817. Thank you to all that have responded so far. To those who are still considering your pledge, you can email your intents to Andrea at andrea@ccamherst.org, mail in your pledge intentions, call Andrea (673-3231) or go to the church website <https://www.ccamherst.org/stewardship-pledge/>



FY23 Pledge Results as of March 10

Sunday, March 13, 2022

Blankets for Bruce

Hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, homelessness and poverty are always with us. When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That's why the CWS Blankets program was created—to give a loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone.

This program was very near and dear to Bruce Beckley's heart. As a congregation, our heart for mission remains strong. This is an opportunity to help make a difference, change lives, and honor Bruce's passion for mission work.

As a church family, let's join together as we take up a 'Blankets for Bruce' offering. You can donate using the Blankets pew envelopes, mail a check to Andrea with 'blankets' in the memo line, or donate online at our custom CWS Blankets secure donation page: <https://cwsblankets.org/virtual/ccamherst/>



Our Church Calendar

March 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
	11:15 a.m.	Parents Group Meet 'n Greet
	11:15 a.m.	Racial Justice Group
	3:30 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	Woman's Association
	6:00 p.m.	Budget & Finance Team
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	New Member Info Session
Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Lenten Study Series
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir