

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



*Despair and hope. They travel the road to Jerusalem together, as together they travel every road we take - despair at what in our madness we are bringing down on our own heads and hope in him who travels the road with us and for us and who is the only one of us all who is not mad.*

—Frederick Buechner

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

April 10, 2022

Palm/Passion Sunday

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

*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

Pierre LaPlante

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

adapted from Psalm 118

One: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever.

**Many: Hosanna to God, Hosanna in the highest!**

One: Let all who fear God say, "God's love endures forever!"

**Many: Hosanna to God, Hosanna in the highest!**

One: With the Lord on our side, what can we fear? What can humankind do?

**Many: Hosanna to God, Hosanna in the highest!**

One: We shall triumph over those who surround us and stand in confidence in the Lord,  
our God!

**Many: Hosanna to God, Hosanna in the highest!**

One: The Lord is our strength and our might. The Lord has become our salvation!

**Many: Hosanna to God, Hosanna in the highest!**

**All: Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

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

With great joy we welcome you, Lord Jesus! The journey has been long, and we have yearned to enter the Holy City. Today we shout, Hosanna! For you come into our hearts and our lives, humbly, patiently, encouraging us to learn and grow, to embark on journeys of hope and healing. Open our hearts today to hear your words, as we sing praise to you. Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Fill us with the spirit of worship as we pray: **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.**

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Senior High Youth Group

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*Ride On, O King, Ride On!*

Gilbert Martin

\*DOXOLOGY (Tune: OLD HUNDREDETH, No. 592)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Lord, today we honor you with our gifts and offerings, laying them before you as the crowds who waved palms and offered their coats to walk on centuries ago. Thank you for walking with us as we try to follow the path of Christ. Trusting you, we can share what we have with others, in Jesus' name. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

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.*

ORGAN PRAYER RESPONSE

HOMILY

"The Palms to The Passion"

## JESUS' FINAL WEEK ACCORDING TO LUKE AND OTHER VOICES

Senior High Youth Group

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Triumphal Entry

Luke 19:28-40

After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethpage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

## SCRIPTURE LESSION

## The Last Supper

Luke 22:7-8, 14-23

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover meal for us that we may eat it."

When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, 'Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.' Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!' Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

"Lord, Lord, Open Unto Me"

by Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman

Open unto me – light for my darkness.

Open unto me – courage for my fear.

Open unto me – hope for my despair.

Open unto me – peace for my turmoil.

Open unto me – joy for my sorrow.

Open unto me – strength for my weakness.

Open unto me – wisdom for my confusion.

Open unto me – forgiveness for my sins.

Open unto me – tenderness for my toughness.

Open unto me – love for my hates.

Open unto me – Thy Self for myself.

Lord, Lord, open unto me!

Amen.

## SCRIPTURE LESSION

## Praying in the Garden

Luke 22:39-42, 45-46

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, 'Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.' Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, 'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.' When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, 'Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.'

## POEM

"Gethsemane"

by Mary Oliver, Poet

## SCRIPTURE LESSION

Judas Betrays Jesus

Luke 22:47-48, 52-54a

While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him, 'Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?' When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, 'Lord, should we strike with the sword?' Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, 'No more of this!' And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, 'Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!' Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house.

## SONG

*Ah Holy Jesus*  
Sara Phelps, soloist

verses 1 and 2

## SCRIPTURE LESSION

Jesus or Barabbas

Luke 23: 13-20, 24-25

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, 'You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.'

Then they all shouted out together, 'Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!' (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting, 'Crucify, crucify him!' A third time he said to them, 'Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.' But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

## DIALOGUE

*The Perils of Indifference* by Elie Wiesel, Holocaust Survivor

## SCRIPTURE LESSION

Jesus Crucified

Luke 23:33-35, 44-47

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!'

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, 'Certainly this man was innocent.'

## BELLS

*Were You There?*  
Wendy Valeri, soloist

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

by Cheryl Lawrie

One: They call today Good Friday

**Many: but what could make this day good?**

One: If you have ever believed that love inevitably leads to betrayal

**Many: this day says it doesn't.**

One: If you have ever believed that some people are unlovable, irredeemable

**Many: this day says they aren't.**

One: If you have ever believed that there is a limit to forgiveness

**Many: this day says there isn't.**

One: If you have ever believed you aren't worth saving

**Many: this day says you are.**

One: If you have ever believed that you don't deserve freedom

**Many: this day says you do.**

One: If you have ever believed that fear, anger, hate and despair will always win

**Many: this day says it won't.**

One: This day is good for you.

POSTLUDE

*Our Father in Heaven*

J.S. Bach/arr. 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.*

# 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.
- Please join us in the community room for a time of fellowship after the worship service.
- 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  
 Gail Wiegand  
 Tim Wiegand

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

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Gretchen Davis

Interim Children's Coordinator

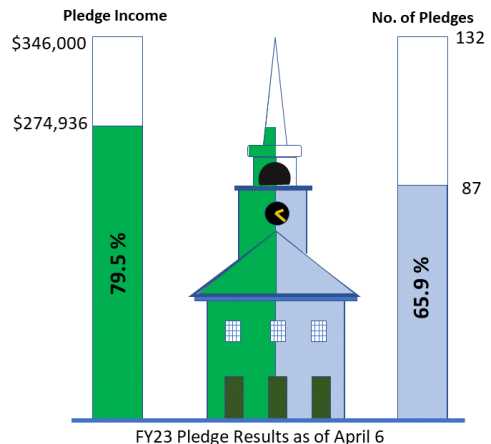
**A REMINDER** to all committees and ministry coordinators—**annual reports** are due in to the church office by April 15.

**DIACONATE EASTER BASKETS:** Every Easter and Thanksgiving, the Diaconate raises funds to purchase food gift cards for families in need in our local community. Most of the gift cards are passed onto the World Service committee which allocates funds to SHARE and the Amherst Junior Women's Club. These organizations have the natural processes in place to ensure that needy families are the ultimate beneficiaries. The deacons also provide gift cards to recipients who are connected to our church whom we know have special current needs.

This Sunday, the Diaconate invites donations to this traditional Easter basket collection. For those listening online, donations may be made through the church's website under the donations tab.

Your generosity in the past has been greatly appreciated and the Diaconate thanks you in advance for any contribution for this Easter collection.

**FAITH PROMISE:** Our 2022-2023 fiscal year **Stewardship Campaign** is underway. As of Wednesday, April 6, we have received pledges from 87 families, totaling \$274,936. 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](mailto:andrea@ccamherst.org), mail in your pledge intentions, call Andrea (673-3231) or go to the church website <https://www.ccamherst.org/stewardship-pledge/>





## **GOOD STUFF SALE DONATIONS NEEDED:**

The Woman's Association is busy preparing for our first post-pandemic Good Stuff Sale (formerly Rummage Sale). We invite everyone with items to donate to bring them to the church so that they can be sorted for the sale. Information about what items we are accepting can be found on the WA page on the church website, on the email that was sent out on April 5 or from any WA member. Or you can email [wa@ccamherst.org](mailto:wa@ccamherst.org). We are not accepting clothing or shoes for this sale. Please mark your calendar for the sale on April 29 & 30, and thanks!

## **JOIN THE CHURCH SCHOOL in Celebrating Screen-Free Week—May 1-7:**

Screen-Free Week is an international celebration held in schools, churches, and whole communities. It's an opportunity to unplug (after school and work responsibilities are done) for other types of entertainment, connection and fun!

Even though it's about going without screens, it isn't about going without—it's about what we get! More time with our family. Siblings getting along better! More time outdoors! More time reading or playing board games! Better sleep! For people of faith, it's also an opportunity to remove distractions and spiritual roadblocks and seek out what is meaningful in our lives—feeling more joy and wonder.

But wait there is more! Friday May 6th, Church School will be hosting a Family Fun Night from 6-8pm. Join us here at the church for a campfire, outdoor glow stick games and s'mores! We will wrap up our screen free week with an evening of fun for everyone. Look for our table in the Community Room during the Fellowship hour to grab some great resources like Screen-Free Bingo and a list of 1-1 Screen-Free Activities. To pledge with families and individuals around the world, visit [www.screen-free.org](http://www.screen-free.org).

**100 ENVELOPES—A SHYG FUNDRAISER!** This year's Senior High Youth Group Mission Trip is in Austin, TX. From June 19-24, our SHYG will be working with an organization called Reach Beyond Mission, serving those facing food insecurity and learning all about the injustice of food insecurity in our country.

**You can help!** With rising inflation, this year's trip will be a little bit pricier than trips past. The SHYG's 100 Envelopes fundraiser launches TODAY. In the community room, you will find a bulletin board display of envelopes numbered 1 to 100. Think about how much you'd like to donate to the SHYG mission trip, and grab an envelope (or a combination of envelopes) with that number on it! Want to give \$35, but envelope #35 is taken? Get creative and snag envelopes #32 and #3!

Thank you so much for your support!

**SHARE FOOD PANTRY** requests for April include toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorants, shampoo and conditioner, bar soap, feminine hygiene products, diapers and wipes. 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!

## **Our Church Calendar**

**April 10—16, 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.	Racial Justice Group
	11:30 a.m.	Christian Ed Team
Monday	2:00 p.m.	Middle High Youth Group
	10:00 a.m.	Woman's Association
Tuesday	5:45 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Diaconate
	7:00 p.m.	Trustees of the Facility
Wednesday	4:00 p.m.	Communications Team
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday service

*Sunday, April 10, 2022*



### **Palm/Passion Sunday**

**April 10—10:00 a.m.**

We begin with the traditional waving of the palms and end with a new interactive presentation of the Passion story led by our Senior High Youth.

### **Maundy Thursday**

**April 14—7:00 p.m.**

A prayerful reflective service with Communion and Tenebrae – a commemoration of Jesus' last night with his disciples.

### **Easter Sunday, April 17**

**7:00 a.m.** Sunrise Service on the Amherst village green.

Celebrate the Resurrection at daybreak followed by coffee and donuts on the green.

**10:00 a.m.** Easter celebration service in our sanctuary with our Chancel and Bell Choirs.

Join us as we praise God with a joyful noise!

All services will be in-person and available to watch online (except for the Easter Sunrise Service).