

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



*“The spiritual life does not remove us from the world  
but leads us deeper into it.”*

— Henri Nouwen

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

July 3, 2022

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 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: God is still speaking.

**Many: If we listen closely, we will hear God speaking all around us.**

One: In the rustle of wind and the crash of waves.

**Many: In the song of birds and the chirp of crickets.**

One: In the laughter of our friends and the love of our family.

**Many: In the arguments of our opponents and the hearts of our enemies.**

One: In the signs of protestors and the calls of the marginalized.

**Many: In the twinge of our conscience and the pull of the Spirit.**

One: In the harmony of the organ and the creak of the church floors.

**Many: In the prayers that we pray and the hymns that we sing.**

One: God is still speaking.

**Many: Let us listen for the voice of God in this hour of worship, and throughout our lives.**

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

God of all good things, join us here for worship today. We come to worship to orient our hearts and minds on you. We come to worship to share communion and reflect on your word. We come to worship to be called, and to be renewed. May we be centered in this time and place. Take away our distractions, so that we can hear your voice clearly. Take away our distress, so that our hearts can be open. Take away our longings, so that we will know that we have everything we need right here, before your altar and at your table. We pray all this in the name of the one who taught us how to be truly present before you, Jesus, who prayed 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

Numbers 22: 22-35

God's anger was kindled because he was going, and the angel of the Lord took his stand in the road as his adversary. Now he was riding on the donkey, and his two servants were with him. The donkey saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road, with a drawn sword in his hand; so the donkey turned off the road, and went into the field; and Balaam struck the donkey, to turn it back on to the road. Then the angel of the Lord stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on either side. When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, it scraped against the wall, and scraped Balaam's foot against the wall; so he struck it again. Then the angel of the Lord went ahead, and stood in a narrow place, where there was no way to turn either to the right or to the left. When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, it lay down under Balaam; and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he struck the donkey with his staff. Then the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and it said to Balaam, 'What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?' Balaam said to the donkey, 'Because you have made a fool of me! I wish I had a sword in my hand! I would kill you right now!' But the donkey said to Balaam, 'Am I not your donkey, which you have ridden all your life to this day? Have I been in the habit of treating you in this way?' And he said, 'No.'

Then the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road, with his drawn sword in his hand; and he bowed down, falling on his face. The angel of the Lord said to him, 'Why have you struck your donkey these three times? I have come out as an adversary, because your way is perverse before me. The donkey saw me, and turned away from me these three times. If it had not turned away from me, surely I would by now have killed you and let it live.' Then Balaam said to the angel of the Lord, 'I have sinned, for I did not know that you were standing in the road to oppose me. Now therefore, if it is displeasing to you, I will return home.' The angel of the Lord said to Balaam, 'Go with the men; but speak only what I tell you to speak.' So Balaam went on with the officials of Balak.

SERMON

"The Unexpected Voice of God"

ANTHEM

*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*  
Sara Phelps, soprano  
Michael Havay, organ

J. S. Bach

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 RESPONSE

INVITATION TO OUR OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

John B. Dykes/  
arr. Larry Shackley

\*DOXOLOGY (Tune: *From All That Dwell Below the Skies*)

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

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Loving God, we give today recognizing that we do not always know where your resources are most needed, or how we can best serve you. May this offering be a step towards opening our eyes to your presence around us. May these gifts amplify your voice here in our community, bringing justice, comfort, and hope to those in need of your grace. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*We welcome all people to join in receiving this sacrament. Children may participate at the discretion of their parents.*

CALL TO COMMUNION

**One: God be with you.**

Many: And also with you.

**One: Lift up your hearts.**

Many: We lift them up to the Lord.

**One: Let us give thanks to God most high.**

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

COMMUNION PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BREAKING OF THE BREAD, POURING OF THE CUP

CONSECRATING PRAYER

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

*Communion at CCA is open to anyone who would like to partake. When you receive the bread, eat at your own pace, symbolizing our individual relationship with God. When you receive the juice, drink with the whole congregation, symbolizing our communion as the Body of Christ. The bread is gluten, egg, and dairy free and the juice is non-alcoholic, so that there may be no barriers to Christ's table.*

ORGAN MEDITATION

*More Love to Thee*

William H. Doane/  
arr. David Paxton

*Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*

John B. Dykes/  
Arr. Roy M. Darley

COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

Spirit of Christ, you have blessed our tables and our lives. May the eating of this Bread and the drinking of this Cup give us courage to speak and act with love, not only in church sanctuaries, but out in your precious world. Wrap your hopeful presence around all whose bodies, spirits and hearts need healing, and may we become your compassionate and safe refuge for all. Amen.

\*HYMN

*Live Into Hope*

No. 332

\*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

\*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*POSTLUDE

*Centennial Triptych: 3. Rondeau Recessional*

David Lasky

(\*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 on break for the summer. Young children are welcome to choose an activity from our **"A Child in Church" Basket** to bring to the pew with their families.
- 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 remember to wear your nametag each Sunday, so that we may all greet our neighbors. If you do not have a permanent nametag, temporary nametags may be found inside the friendship registers. If you are in need of a new, permanent nametag, please see one of the deacons.
- Please join us in the memorial garden, weather permitting, following worship to welcome visitors and friends and enjoy refreshments.
- In the event of an emergency, please remain seated until instructions have been given.

The church office is available 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. Gordon Rankin

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Sally Hooper

Tom Werst

Sue Werst

Doug Topliffe

Ministers to the World

Guest Preacher

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Usher

Liturgist

Videographer

\*\*\*\*\*

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy

Wendy Valeri

Gretchen Davis

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Bell Choir Director

Interim Children's Coordinator

**JULY 4 HELP WANTED:** The Fellowship Team is looking for volunteers to donate unfrosted cookies, 2 per baggie. We especially need volunteers on July 4, 9:00 a.m. until 12:45 p.m. to pass out brochures and cookies as well as face painters/temporary tattoo applicators. Shifts start at 9:00, 10:15, and 11:30 so not a huge commitment! Youth welcome! Set up at 8:00 a.m. and take down help also needed. For details and to sign up please contact Carol at [carollandon@gmail.com](mailto:carollandon@gmail.com) or text/call 603-494-7734 or contact Sue Werst 603-759-5344.

**GARDEN FLOWERS:** Fresh cut garden flowers are lovely for simple altar arrangements during the summer. If you can provide a bouquet of cut flowers, or can simply contribute flowers for a bouquet, please contact Sue Stout or Andrea in the church office to schedule a Sunday. Thank you for sharing your flower gardens!

**THE CHURCH IN THE VILLAGE**, the historical booklet containing columns written by Anne Krantz, will be on sale after the service today and next Sunday - and also at the church table at the Amherst July 4th festivities. They are being sold for \$15 (cash or check made out to the church). They can also be obtained from Sue Spiess or Kay Steeves or ordered through the church website.

**LAWN MOWING TEAM:** Our beautiful lawn needs attention! If you are able to be a part of the 'mowing team' please sign up either through our website or by contacting Tim Wiegand. It doesn't take long and we would be most appreciative of your hard work! We will send you specific instructions in a confirmation email. Thank you!

Sunday, July 3, 2022

### **COVID-19 Protocols as of 4/2/22**

*Thank you for your ongoing patience as we navigate gathering as a community during this time of uncertainty. Here are the guidelines for in-person worship and using the church building:*

- 1. Masking is optional throughout the church including worship, fellowship hour, church meetings, etc.*
- 2. Social distancing is optional in worship. Those who still prefer to keep a social distance while seated in the pews are encouraged to use the "Social Distancing Cards" (found at the back of the sanctuary) to create personal space.*
- 3. Friendship Registers are passed at the beginning of worship. We are no longer taking names at the door of the sanctuary.*
- 4. Offering plates are passed during worship.*
- 5. The Passing of the Peace will remain as it has been most recently: hug the one you're with and wave or share the "peace" sign with those around you.*
- 6. The choir is singing during worship, and we have reintroduced hymns to the service.*
- 7. During communion, bread and juice will be passed by the deacons throughout the congregation.*

*If you have any questions about our COVID-19 protocols, please do not hesitate to reach out to a member of our reopening team or one of the pastors.*

#### **Financial Summary**

(as of May 31, 2022)

	YTD	YTD	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$374,956	\$396,688	\$(21,736)
Expenses	\$398,141	\$403,561	\$ (5,420)
Net Income	\$ (23,184)	\$ (6,873)	\$(16,311)

*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 (Treasurer), Doug Topliffe and Todd Whitney.*