

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



*“There is nothing we can do to make God love us more.
There is nothing we can do to make God love us less.”*

– Philip Yancey

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

July 31, 2022

Eighth 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

Deux Récit de Flûte Jean-Jacques Beauvarlet-Charpentier
1. *Hymn for Ascension Day*
2. *Gloria from Messe Royale de Dumont*
Eileen Yarrison, flutist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 23

One: In the darkest valley,
Many: at the banquet table;
One: in the hard work of life,
Many: in the moments of ease;
One: in our day-to-day reality,
Many: at times like this–
One: this time we've set aside –
Many: for worship, for listening, for paying attention;
One: with every step we take:
Many: our cups overflow,
One: and goodness and mercy follow us,
Many: all the days of our lives.

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

God of green pastures and still waters
through light and shadow
you lead us and we follow,
through the ins and outs
the ups and downs
of these days,
when our hearts are hurting,
when our spirits are rejoicing,

when we can barely put one foot
in front of the other
still you beckon us on...
when we stumble you support us,
when we can go no further
you carry us,
through light and shadow,
in death's dark vale,
and on the mountain peaks
you lead us,
and we follow,
may we never walk alone...

May we feel your Spirit walking beside us now, O God, as we pray the words that Jesus taught us:

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

Hosea 11:1-11

When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.
The more I called them,
the more they went from me;
they kept sacrificing to the Baals
and offering incense to idols.

Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk;
I took them up in my arms,
but they did not know that I healed them.
I led them with cords of human kindness,
with bands of love.
I was to them like those
who lift infants to their cheeks.
I bent down to them and fed them.

They shall return to the land of Egypt,
and Assyria shall be their king,
because they have refused to return to me.

The sword rages in their cities;
it consumes their oracle priests
and devours because of their schemes.
My people are bent on turning away from me.
To the Most High they call,
but he does not raise them up at all.

How can I give you up, Ephraim?
How can I hand you over, O Israel?
How can I make you like Admah?
How can I treat you like Zeboiim?
My heart recoils within me;
my compassion grows warm and tender.
I will not execute my fierce anger;
I will not again destroy Ephraim,
for I am God and no mortal,
the Holy One in your midst,
and I will not come in wrath.

They shall go after the Lord,
who roars like a lion;
when he roars,
his children shall come trembling from the west.
They shall come trembling like birds from Egypt
and like doves from the land of Assyria,
and I will return them to their homes, says the Lord.

SERMON

“Our Christlike God”

ANTHEM

Allegro from Sonata in G Major
Eileen Yarrison, flutist

Georg Philipp Telemann

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

SHARING OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Larghetto from Voluntary I in D

William Boyce

*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)
God of love, you abide with us; you provide for all our needs and guide us in your ways. Out of gratitude for your care we bring our gifts before you. Use them for your work of your church, that all may feast at the table of abundance, walk without fear, and drink deeply from the cup of compassion. May our gifts reflect our trust in your care. May our offerings show our willingness to love as you love. Amen.

*HYMN *Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!* No. 341

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*POSTLUDE *Organ Postlude #1* Larry Brundage

(*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 the liturgy have been adapted from
Joanna Harader and posted on Spacious Faith,
<https://spaciousfaith.com/>
and by Sally at Eternal Echoes,
http://sallysjourney.typepad.com/sallys_journey/*

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. 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
 Michael Havay
 Eileen Yarrison
 Sally Hooper
 Sally Bowkett
 Dave and Joan Poltack
 Andrea Cyr

Ministers to the World
 Senior Pastor
 Organist/Accompanist
 Guest Musician
 Deacon in Charge
 Liturgist
 Ushers
 Videographer

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy
 Sara L. Phelps
 Wendy Valeri
 Larissa Riley

Associate Pastor
 Director of Music
 Bell Choir Director
 Church School Coordinator

THE CHURCH IN THE VILLAGE, the historical booklet containing columns written by Anne Krantz, is still available for purchase. They are being sold for \$15 (cash or check made out to the church), and can also be obtained from Sue Spiess or Kay Steeves, or ordered through the church website.

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!

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!

Financial Summary

(as of May 31, 2022)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <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.

Sunday, July 31, 2022



Don't forget to register for Vacation Bible School 2022

Discovery on Adventure Island: Quest for God's Great Light!

Our island adventure will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on August 15-19. VBS is open to children from preschool to rising 5th grade. We will have daily snacks, crafts, science, games, songs, Bible stories, and more! Cost is \$25 per child with a family maximum of \$60.

But that's not all. Parents with infants and toddlers are invited to come join the fun in their own Parent and Me class.

You can sign up online at www.myvbs.org/CCAmherst. Once registration and payment are complete each family will receive their very own music CD!

For more information about Discovery on Adventure Island VBS contact Gretchen Davis at churchschool@ccamherst.org or visit our church's website at www.ccamherst.org



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.