

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



*“Faith is taking the first step even when
you can't see the whole staircase.”*

—Martin Luther King Jr.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

August 7, 2022

Ninth 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

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

John Hughes/
arr. David Paxton

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We are a people who have been called
to follow where God leads us.

**Many: By faith we follow,
even when asked to walk into
an unknown future.**

One: We are a people who have been challenged
to tell God's story to others.

**Many: By faith we have the courage
to share the good news.**

One: We are God's children who are invited
to feast at the Table of grace.

**Many: By faith we gather with our siblings in Christ,
to pray, to sing, and to worship our God!**

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

God of our ancestors,
it was faith which made them
listen to your words,
trust in your promises,
dare to imagine a different way,
risk undertaking new adventures,
setting aside their fears and doubts.
We ask that you give us such faith.

Jesus our brother,
it was faith which helped you
as you walked through the world,
telling stories of reversals,
listening to the ignored,
touching those we did not love,
pointing to the Community
being built all around us.
We ask that you give us such faith.

Spirit who walks with us,
it is faith which you give to us:
so we can trust the hope
which the world cannot see;
so we can journey into
places we have never been.
Continue to give us such faith,
every moment, every day.

May we feel your presence now, 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

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of

the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

SERMON "Leaps of Faith"

ANTHEM *The Lord is My Shepherd* arr. Derek K. Hakes
Wendy Valeri, bells
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 RESPONSE

SHARING OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC *My Faith, It is an Oaken Staff* trad. Swiss/
arr. David Hegarty

*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)

Generous God, all it takes is one person, then another, then another, to hear your call, to trust in your promises, and to have hope. May we have the faith to merge our gifts together, so they can be used to bring hope, healing, grace, and peace to our communities and to our world. This we pray, 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

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

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

No. 276

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*POSTLUDE

Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above

arr. Thomas Bliss

*(*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
Lectionary Liturgies, <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>*

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

Wendy Valeri

Sue Ruggiero

Kate Thompson

Patricia Bodan

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Organist/Accompanist

Bell Choir Director

Deacon in Charge

Liturgist

Videographer

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy

Sara L. Phelps

Larissa Riley

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Church School Coordinator

END OF SUMMER PARTY: Save the date of Sunday, **August 28** and join us for some end of summer fun at the Dart family's lake house on Baboosic Lake in Amherst. The Darts will provide burgers, hot dogs and corn. Please bring a side dish, a salad, or a dessert, and your own beverages. Questions? Contact Meredith Dart (meredith.dart@astellas.com or 603-305-9066).

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!

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for August 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!

DO YOU HAVE A GARDEN CART you are no longer using? Our gardener could use one in good condition. Please contact Sue Stout.

CLOTHING DONATIONS BEING ACCEPTED: The Woman's Association Good Stuff Sale (formerly Rummage Sale) is back! The September sale will feature clothing (for men, women and children), shoes, handbags, jewelry, and linens spread across two rooms. During August the WA is seeking donations of clothing and the other items included above, which can be dropped off in the designated area in the Vestry Sunday mornings, starting August 7, Monday mornings, August 22 and 29, or by arrangement with Sally Bowkett.

Clothing should be clean and in good condition. Please sort items and label bags to indicate whether they contain clothing for men, women, teens or children, linens, etc.

Questions? Contact Sally Bowkett at sbb46@hotmail.com or 603-801-9267, or Alicia Wight (wightalicia@gmail.com).

Sunday, August 7, 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.