

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



*"Jesus' good news is that God's choice is always for the excluded one. God always chooses the rejected son, the barren woman, the people enslaved in Egypt or exiled in Babylon. It's not a winner's script in the Bible. It's a loser's script - where, ironically, everybody wins."*

—Richard Rohr

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

October 2, 2022

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

*O Rest in the Lord from "Elijah"*

Felix Mendelssohn/  
Ernest A. Dicks

### INTROIT

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

*Please stand in body or in spirit.*

One: We come before God as we are in this moment.

**Many: We come before God as our true, authentic selves.**

One: Come, all who are joyous.

**Many: Come, all who are content.**

One: Come, all who are struggling.

**Many: Come, all who are suffering.**

One: Come to worship a God who heals.

**Many: Come to worship a God who comforts.**

One: Come to worship a God who delights in us.

**Many: Come to worship a God who rejoices with us.**

All: Come, let us worship God, who meets us wherever we are!

### \*HYMN

*Gather Us In*

inside back pages

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

*The congregation may be seated.*

Renewing God,

you have created us and you sustain us.

We come with gratitude in our hearts

for these moments when we can ease the pace of our lives

and listen for your voice.

Create a spirit within us  
that truly draws us toward you  
and toward one another:  
a deep spirit,  
perceptive, gentle, and bold.  
Clear our minds, open our hearts,  
and touch us with your presence and your power.

We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray to you using these words:

**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.**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

Glorify to the Creator, and to the Christ, and Holy Spirit, One;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen. Amen.

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

**\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

**ANTHEM**

*I Will Sing with the Spirit*  
Chancel Choir

John Rutter

**THE SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Psalm 37:1-9

Do not fret because of the wicked;  
do not be envious of wrongdoers,  
for they will soon fade like the grass  
and wither like the green herb.

Trust in the Lord and do good;  
live in the land and enjoy security.  
Take delight in the Lord,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the Lord;  
trust in him, and he will act.  
He will make your vindication shine like the light  
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.

Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him;  
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,  
over those who carry out evil devices.

Refrain from anger and forsake wrath.  
Do not fret—it leads only to evil.  
For the wicked shall be cut off,  
but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.

SERMON "Stop Fretting... In Five Easy Steps!"

\*HYMN *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee* No. 357

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.*

CHORAL RESPONSE

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Verset on "Aurelia" (The Church's One Foundation)* Randolph Currie

\*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)

We thank you, O God, for the opportunity to share in your creative and restorative work among your people. Because you have given to us, we have much to give. May these gifts bring light to those who walk in darkness, hope to those who live in despair, and a healing balm to those who long for grace. These offerings express our gratitude and our aspiration to be more fully the body of Christ. 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

*Prelude diatonique*

Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens

*Andante, Op. 39 No. 7*

Carl Geissler

## COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

based on the prayer of St. Francis

O Lord, through this bread and cup, make us instruments of your Peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love.

Where there is injury, may we offer pardon.

Where there is doubt, may we have faith.

Where there is despair, may we bring hope.

Where there is darkness, may we shine a light.

Where there is sadness, may we plant joy.

Oh Divine Master, grant that we may not  
so much seek to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love;

for it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

Amen.

\*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

\*POSTLUDE

*God of Our Fathers*

George Warren/  
Carlos Staszkeski

(\*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 Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:*



October 9: Genesis 17:1-8  
*Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

October 16: Luke 18:1-8  
*Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

# 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 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 community room for a time of fellowship after the worship service. Coffee and beverages are offered.
- 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

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Gail Wiegand

Kate Thompson

Tim Wiegand

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Liturgist

Videographer

\*\*\*\*\*

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy

Wendy Valeri

Larissa Riley

Associate Pastor

Bell Choir Director

Church School Coordinator

**WEDNESDAY MORNING ADULT ED CONTINUES** October 5 with *Understanding the New Testament: Why do we have four Gospels? Why do they contradict each other at times? What was the purpose of Paul's letters? What is the Book of Revelation really about? Beginning this fall, we'll take a year-long look at the New Testament through this 24-part video lecture series produced by the Great Courses. We'll watch the video together as a group and then have a discussion facilitated by Pastor Maureen. All are welcome, and more information can be found on our website and in the *Spire*.*

**SHARE FOOD PANTRY** requests for October include canned fruit, flour, sugar, boxed cake mixes and baking supplies, coffee, tea, juice, and granola. 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!

### Financial Summary

(as of August, 2022)

	YTD	YTD	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$118,597	\$122,123	\$ (3,526)
Expenses	\$100,397	\$106,789	\$ (6,392)
Net Income	\$ 18,200	\$ 15,334	\$ 2,865

*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.*



**SEEKING CHURCH SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS:**

Do you enjoy working with children? Consider becoming a volunteer for our Church School program. We are looking for adults that can volunteer 1-2 times per month during worship on Sundays to assist our Church School Coordinator and Christian Education team. Volunteers will NOT need to prepare lessons or manage a class on their own. Background checks are required and training will be provided. Please contact Larissa Riley with any questions.

**DONATED ALTAR FLOWERS ARE ALWAYS**

**WELCOME:** Flowers can be given to remember a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion. The donor arranges with a local florist to have their chosen flowers delivered, or can create their own arrangement and deliver it on Saturday. After the service they may take the flowers home or donate them to someone in need of some cheer. There are many openings in the coming months. Contact Andrea in the church office to schedule a Sunday.

**Our Church Calendar****October 2—8, 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
	11:15 a.m.	Fellowship
	11:30 a.m.	Small Group Ministry
	3:00 p.m.	Middle High Youth Group
	4:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Tuesday	1:30 p.m.	Small Group Ministry
	4:30 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday Morning Adult Ed
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class
Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Trudo Memorial Service

## Gather Us In

Unison D A C G Gm/B $\flat$  Dm

1. Here in this place, the new light is stream-ing, sha-dows of doubt are  
 2. We are the young—our lives are a mys-tery; we are the old, who  
 3. Here we re-ceive new life in the wa-ters; here we re-ceive the  
 4. Not just in build-ings, small and con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,

C G D A C G

van-ished a-way. See in this space our fears and our dream-ings,  
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,  
 bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
 light years a-way, here in this place the new light is shin-ing;

Gm/B $\flat$  Dm C Am7 D

brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.  
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is God pres-ent, and now is the day.

WORDS and MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1981

GATHER US IN  
Irr.

A C/G D/F# G A C/G

Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en; gath-er us in; our  
 Gath-er us in— the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in— the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pass-ion, give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er; gath-er us in and

D/F# G A D A C G

spir - its in-flame. Call to us now, and we shall a - wak-en;  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly;  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion  
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,

Gm/Bb Dm C Am7 D C/D Gm/D D

we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.  
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

*Sunday, October 2, 2022*

***COVID-19 Protocols***  
***(as of 4/2/2022)***

*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.*