

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



*“Many of us crucify ourselves between two thieves -
regret for the past and fear of the future.”*

—Fulton Oursler

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

November 13, 2022

Twenty-third 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

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

Richard Proulx

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand in body or in spirit.

One: The God who is greater than we will ever understand,

Many: became one of us to be closer to us.

One: The God who is more loving than our hearts dare imagine,

Many: offers us more grace than we will ever comprehend.

One: The God who is wiser than we will ever know,

Many: teaches us all we need to live as children of God.

One: The God who is the Creator of all things,

Many: is the God we come to worship today!

*HYMN

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

No. 268

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

The congregation may be seated.

God of compassion,

You choose us

to be bearers of grace to a broken world;

You call us

to be words of hope to people deafened by despair.

Jesus, our teacher,
You call us to follow you
so we might bring food to the hungry;
You model kindness for us
so we might bring healing to the hurting.

Spirit of grace,
When we're anxious or fearful,
you fill us with your peace.
When our spirits are lagging,
you energize us with your hope.

Come dwell in us, Holy in One, as we pray as 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.

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory 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.

OUR COVENANT WITH NEW MEMBERS

Invitation to our New Members:

Patricia Harris

Maggie Schellenberg

Paul Schellenberg

Barb Wolfe

Ken Wolfe

Questions of Commitment

*Congregational Covenant and Welcome (in unison)

We welcome you with joy in the common mission and life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as together we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of Jesus' ministry in the world.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Greeting and Presentation of Certificates

ANTHEM

Be Thou My Vision
Chancel Choir

arr. Russell Robinson

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 21:5-19

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down." They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them. "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. "But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.

SERMON

"Apocalypse Now"

*HYMN

God of Our Life

No. 275

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

If you have a prayer to share, fill out a prayer card in your pew. Cards will be collected by one of the pastors during the hymn after the sermon, and will be shared during Joys and Concerns.

CHORAL RESPONSE

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Simple Gifts
Bell Choir

arr. Susan Geschke

*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)

For life sustaining gifts that we so often take for granted – for shelter, food, and warmth; for your steadfast love that awakens us and rescues us from our wandering ways; for your word that guides and heals us – we give you thanks, gracious God. As we invest a part of all you entrust to us to further the ministries of this church, may we show others the immeasurable riches of your grace. Make this church a beacon of hope for our community and our world. Amen.

*HYMN

In the Midst of New Dimensions

inside back page

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Chant Héroïque

George Blake

(*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 are adapted from
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 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 in the pews and 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. 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

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Wendy Valeri

Mark Baddeley

Steve Boczenowski

Don and Susan Holden

Doug Topliffe

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Bell Choir Director

Deacon in Charge

Liturgist

Ushers

Videographer

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy

Larissa Riley

Associate Pastor

Church School Coordinator

FRIENDSHIP BASKETS: On behalf of the congregation, your Diaconate is raising funds to purchase food gift cards for families in need in our local community. Most of the gift cards are passed on to 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 Friendship Basket collection. For those listening online or unable to join us in person, 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 Thanksgiving collection.

RAFFLE TICKETS for six lovely gift baskets will be on sale in the Community Room during Fellowship Time today. The drawings for the basket winners will take place at the Woman's Association's Holiday Fair this Saturday, November 19.

Financial Summary

(as of October 31, 2022)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$184,209	\$179,829	\$ 4,380
Expenses	\$177,154	\$179,563	\$ (2,409)
Net Income	\$ 7,055	\$ 266	\$ 6,789

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.

DON'T MISS THE HOLIDAY FAIR on Saturday, Nov. 19, from 9:00 to 2:00! The Community Room and the Vestry will be FULL of crafts, treasures, holiday decorations, gifts, delicious edibles and more. Check out the raffle for exciting gift baskets and the silent auction with a variety of special items. There's something for everyone, and all proceeds benefit the church and local charities.

HELP WITH THIS YEAR'S HOLIDAY FAIR: A number of tasks are available for anyone who can help with this year's WA Holiday Fair on November 19. Set-up help is needed on Thursday, November 17, beginning at 1:30 p.m., and on Friday, November 18, beginning at 9:30 a.m. On the day of the fair, helpers are needed to greet customers and assist at sale tables during the fair, and to help with clean-up from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Please contact Adrienne Topliffe (abtopliffe@comcast.net or 603-673-7436) to sign up to help in some way or if you have any questions.

WEDNESDAY MORNING ADULT ED CONTINUES November 16 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 November include pancake mix and syrup, condiments, cooking sauces and seasonings, cooking oil, jelly, and cold cereal. 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!



Breakfast With Santa Saturday, December 10, 2022

"Breakfast with Santa" is a special event sponsored by our church community and open to others in local towns to participate. This year's event will be Saturday, December 10 and will include two sittings: 9:00—10:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.—12:00 noon. A hot breakfast with a variety of options will be served, there will be organized games and crafts, and of course the opportunity visit with Santa himself. We will not have a photographer this year, but bring your phone or camera and take your own photos of your children with Santa. Santa's bookshop is open and each child gets to choose a recycled book.

We hope many church families will participate, a great event for grandparents to bring their grandchildren. The money raised goes back into our church. To register go to ccamherst.org. Tickets are limited and are on a first come basis. Tickets are \$12.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children under 14; children 12-months & younger are free. Don't wait until the last minute, we usually sell out way before the event.

We are looking for donations of casseroles and other breakfast food from church members. If you are interested in helping please contact Marti Warren: martiwarren@comcast.net.

Congregational Church of Amherst
11 Church Street



Holiday Fair

Saturday November 19th

9am to 2pm

Cabot Cheese



Birch Houses

Bakery

Treasures

Pecans



Raffle Baskets



Wreaths



Silent Auction



Jewelry

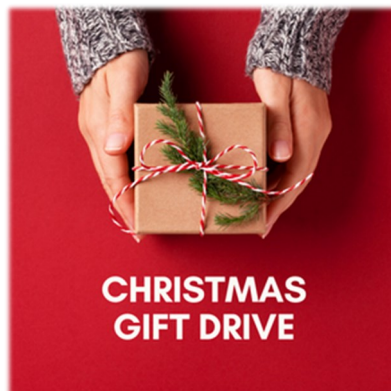
Crafts

Knits

Celebrate the Season of Giving

The Christmas season is just around the corner and the World Service team is again partnering with two organizations to help ensure that all in our community experience the joy of the holidays. As you can see below, there is a way for everyone to participate, and a wide variety of those to support.

We will again be signing up online, using SignUp Genius. There will still be a “Giving Tree” at the church, but this year, the stars will have instructions on how to use the signup tool. We will also have members of the team available after in-person worship on November 13, 20, and 27 to answer questions and help those that may need assistance.



Important Dates:

Nov 13th – Dec 1st: Dates to sign up for gifts – information will be sent out by email.

Nov 13th, 20th, 27th: Members of World Service Team available to help, after in-person worship

Dec 4th: Deadline to Drop off gifts to church

Crestwood Nursing Home: We will continue our annual tradition of purchasing gifts for each resident from their specific wish lists. You will be able to view the wish lists and choose a resident that speaks to your heart.

Family Promise of Southern NH (formerly Anne-Marie House): They have moved to a larger facility and are now housing approximately 36 children and their families, almost double what they used to be able to accommodate. Each child has at least one special item on their Christmas list. Santa, Mrs. Claus, and members of the World Service team will deliver these gifts in person on December 14th.

All gifts are due back to the church no later than end of worship Sunday Dec 4th

Crestwood gifts should be returned unwrapped in a gift bag, with the name of the resident clearly visible on the bag, and gift wrap included.

Family Promise gifts should be wrapped and returned with a tag with the name/age of the child.

For more information please visit <https://www.ccamherst.org/christmasgifts/>

In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo - ple, war-ring fac-tions and de - spair,
 3 As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with - draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples wan-dering in their sep - arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol - ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead-ing where the ea - gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

Sunday, November 13, 2022

