

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



Without justice and love, peace will always be the great illusion.

—Helder Camara

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

December 4, 2022

Second Sunday of Advent

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

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming, Op. 122 No. 8

Johannes Brahms

INTROIT

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Schmidt Family

One: We light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas in anticipation of the coming of the light of Christ.

Many: The first candle reminds us that we wait in hope for that light.

One: Today we light the second candle of Advent, the candle of Peace.

(Two purple candles are lit.)

One: This candle reminds us that Jesus came into the world as the Prince of Peace.

Many: This candle reminds us of our dreams for peace in our nations, neighborhoods, and families.

One: This candle reminds us that to have peace in the world, we must have peace in our hearts.

Many: This candle reminds us that when we offer each other the sign of peace, we offer the presence of Christ.

All: Let us worship our God of peace together!

*HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

No. 9

Please stand in body or in spirit.

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

The congregation may be seated.

Holy One, you who shape the mountains and guide the seas, ground us here in this time of worship. You teach us the true meaning of peace. In your word, we hear our ancestors seek peace in a world full of uncertainty and oppression. In prayer, we hear each other ask for peace in times of suffering or loss. In silence, we hear your Spirit whisper, speaking of peace in the tick of the clock and the creak of the floorboards. Join us here in this service of word and song. Help us find a moment of peace.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray 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.

*SONG OF PRAISE

Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

CHILDREN'S TIME

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People
Chancel Choir

arr. Howard Helvey

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight."'

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

SERMON

"Preparing for Peace"

*HYMN

Prepare the Way

No. 13

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

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Rowland H. Prichard/
Gregory Hamilton

*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 came to bring peace on earth. And yet, everywhere we look there is war, suffering, anger, and fear. May today's offering be a sign that we still believe in the possibility of peace. May the offering of our lives be to bring about peace however we are able. 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

Pastorale on Advent Themes

Randolph Currie

Comunione pastorale

D. Canestrari

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

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

No. 8

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

People, Look East

James Mansfield

(*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 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

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Gail Wiegand

Alvin and Heidi Fortun

Paul Schellenberg

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Ushers

Videographer

Wendy Valeri

Larissa Riley

Bell Choir Director

Church School Coordinator

WEDNESDAY MORNING ADULT ED continues December 7 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*.

ADVENT VESPERS SERVICE: In the busy weeks that lead up to Christmas we can sometimes lose sight of "the reason for the season" of Advent. Join us in the sanctuary on December 14 at 7:00 p.m. for a time of quiet prayer, reflective readings, candle lighting, and meditative music. Come experience Advent and take a break from the busyness of Christmas. Come as you are and just be.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for December 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!

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.





**CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF AMHERST**
United Church of Christ

Family Christmas Concert and Singalong

SUNDAY

December 11, 2022

7:00 pm

11 Church Street, Amherst NH

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

CHANCEL CHOIR - SARA PHELPS, DIRECTOR

HANDBELL CHOIR - WENDY VALERI, DIRECTOR

ORGANIST/PIANIST - MICHAEL HAVAY

GUEST MUSICIANS

Enjoy beautiful sacred choral and handbell selections, along with much-loved popular favorites of the season. Everyone gets to participate in the merry singalong songs!





**ALL BLOOD
TYPES NEEDED**



**American
Red Cross**

Blood Drive
**Amherst
Congregational
Church**

Community Room
11 Church St
Amherst, NH 03031

Friday, December 30, 2022
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Our Church Calendar

December 4—10, 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
	11:15 a.m.	Youth Choir
	11:30 a.m.	Small Group Ministry
	2:00 p.m.	Middle High Youth Group
	4:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Christmas Luncheon
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	WA Board Meeting
	1:30 p.m.	Small Group Ministry
	4:30 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Understanding the New Testament
	6:00 p.m.	Budget and Finance Team
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Congregational Care
	4:00 p.m.	Communications Team
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Breakfast with Santa