

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



"One filled with joy preaches without preaching."

—Mother Theresa

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

December 11, 2022

Third 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

Carol of the Bells
Bell Choir

INTROIT

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Woman's Association

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: The second candle reminds us of our dreams for Peace.

Many: Today we light the third candle, the candle of Joy.

(Two purple candles and one pink candle are lit.)

One: This candle reminds us that God wants us to find joy in the beauty of Creation.

Many: This candle reminds us that God wants us to find joy in being with one another.

One: This candle reminds us that God offers us joy even when we are weighed down by sadness.

Many: This candle reminds us that God offers us joy in the story of a baby born in a manger.

All: Let us worship together with joy!

*HYMN

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

inside back pages

Please stand in body or in spirit.

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

The congregation may be seated.

O God, we welcome your presence as we continue our journey through Advent.

Give us the courage to spread joy in the world.

Speak your word to us in this time of worship.

Fill us with true joy – the joy that comes from knowing you;

the joy that comes from feeling your justice come to life in our midst;

the joy that comes as we truly prepare our hearts as a dwelling place for you.

Hear us now as we pray the words 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.

*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

Mary, Did You Know?

arr. Mac Huff

Chancel Choir

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

SERMON

"Joseph's Dream"

*HYMN

Comfort, Comfort You My People

No. 3

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

Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine

Mark Hayes/
Douglas E. Wagner

*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)

What a joy to give! What a delight to join our efforts to your purposes, amazing God! You inspire us to lift up the weak, to stand against injustice, to work for harmony among all. May our offerings spread the knowledge of your ways across this earth, widening the circle of inclusion to embrace all your children, in Jesus' name. Amen.

*HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

No. 23

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

The Sussex Carol

Robert Lau

(*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

Wendy Valeri

Gail Wiegand

Sally Bowkett, Joan Poltack

Andrea Cyr

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Bell Choir Director

Deacon in Charge

Ushers

Videographer

Larissa Riley

Church School Coordinator

CREATIVE WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY: The theme for our church year is ***Why We Worship***, and each month we'll focus on a different part of our worship and explore why it's a part of our service and how it connects with our faith journey.

In December, our worship theme is ***"Listening"*** and the part of worship we're celebrating is the Scripture Reading. Even the most familiar scripture passages can take on new meaning when we look at it with fresh eyes, consider its original context, and listen for our Still Speaking God. In this service, we'll be listening to the familiar story of the birth of Jesus, as told by our children in our annual **Christmas Pageant**. We hope you can join us in-person or online!

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!

A RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE will be held on Friday, December 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in our community room. All blood types are needed. Visit RedCrossBlood.org to schedule an appointment.

Financial Summary

(as of November 30, 2022)

	YTD	YTD	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$205,894	\$208,731	\$ (2,837)
Expenses	\$212,393	\$214,449	\$ (2,056)
Net Income	\$ (6,499)	\$ (5,717)	\$ 781

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, Todd Whitney and Tim Wiegand.



Advent Vespers Service

Wednesday, December 14

7:00 p.m.

In the busy weeks that lead up to Christmas we can sometimes lose sight of “the reason for the season” of Advent. Advent is meant to be a peaceful time of anticipation and preparation, a time of joy and hope.

Advent is also a time for those who aren’t feeling joyous to find a space for their uncertainty, apprehension, and grief. Advent gives us permission to honor the part of ourselves that is longing to slow down, to take a breath, to be instead of do. It also provides us an opportunity to find comfort in the darkness.

Join us 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.

MEN’S GENTLY USED OR NEW CLOTHING NEEDED:

Crestwood Senior Living Center in Milford is in need of men’s clothing. A box is in the church office for socks, comfortable pants, shirts and sweatshirts. If you have questions please contact Bruce Manchester at bruceman23@comcast.net.

WEDNESDAY MORNING ADULT ED

continues December 21 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*.

Our Church Calendar

December 11—17, 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.	Racial Justice Group
	4:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group
	7:00 p.m.	Family Christmas Concert
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Diaconate
	7:00 p.m.	Trustees of the Facility
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Advent Vespers Service
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir



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

Family Christmas Concert and Singalong

SUNDAY

December 11, 2022

7:00 pm

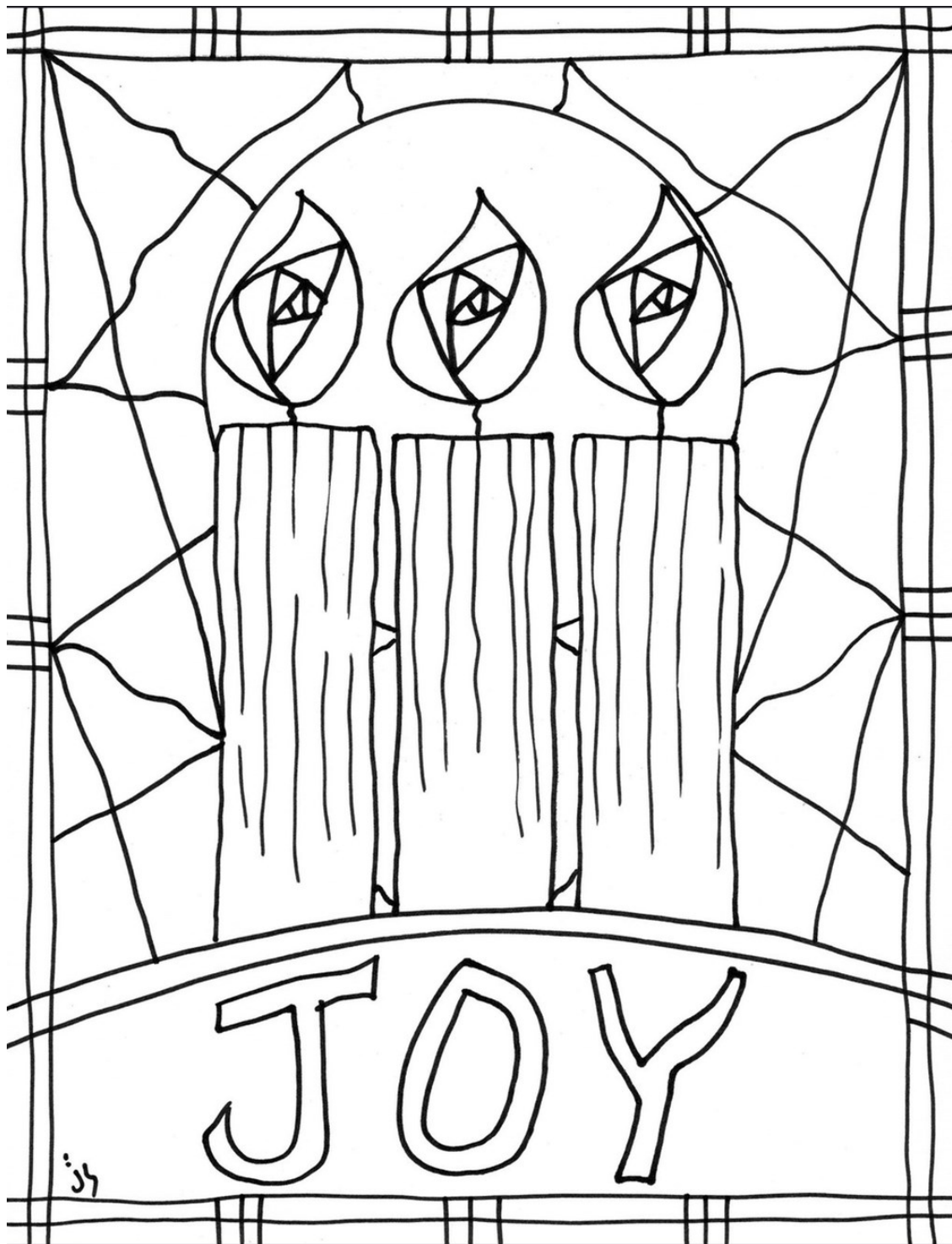
11 Church Street, Amherst NH

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!





Isa. 12:6; 26:9; 35:6; Matt. 11:5

Marty Haugen, 1983; rev. 1993

1 A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In deep - est night Christ's com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, whose hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 cold the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall

Je - sus is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing.
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less;

Liturgical composer Marty Haugen wrote both words and music for this Advent hymn with the twofold aim of providing an easy congregational chorale and utilizing the images of the Isaiah passages.

Tune: REJOICE, REJOICE 9.8.9.8.8.7.8.9.
 Marty Haugen, 1983

ADVENT

D D/F# G D Em Am D

Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 Mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing
 One with - out voice breaks forth in song, a lame one leaps in
 Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our end - less

Em D7 G C B7 Em

geth - er, to o - pen wide the heaven - ly door, and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of the an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak are raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry, may God fill ev - ery day we share, and

Am7 D7 G 1-3 G/B C 4 G/B C G

lives now in-side us for ev - er. . . .
 shat - ter all hate and in - jus - tice. . . .
 weap-ons are bro-ken a - sun - der. . . .
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry. . . .

1-3 4

Sunday, December 11, 2022

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services



Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Our **5:00 p.m. Family Service** is tailored for families with young children and for the young at heart. Come hear the Christmas story as told by our Church School children and Confirmants in our traditional Christmas Pageant. We'll raise our child-friendly glow stick "candles" as we sing *Silent Night* and *Joy to the World* together!

Our **8:00 p.m. Candlelight Service** tells the Christmas story through lessons and carols with music from our Bell and Chancel Choirs. As the sanctuary gradually fills with candlelight and the singing of *Silent Night*, we proclaim the birth of Jesus, the light of the world!

Both services will be livestreamed on Facebook and will be available on our website after 9:30 p.m.

Christmas Day 10:00 a.m.

Join us on **Christmas Day at 10:00 a.m.** for our Sunday worship as we sing carols, celebrate the spirit of Christmas, and welcome the Christ Child into the world!

O Come, All Ye Faithful!