

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



"I cannot be awake, for nothing looks to me as it did before, or else I am awake for the first time, and all before has been a mean sleep."

—Walt Whitman

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

January 8, 2023

Epiphany Sunday

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

Prélude sur l'Introït de l'Épiphanie

Maurice Duruflé

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand in body or in spirit.

One: We gather together,

Many: as people of faith in the warmth of God's house.

One: We gather to celebrate

Many: that nothing can extinguish God's light,

One: to remember

Many: that love will always be more powerful than fear,

One: and to trust

Many: that peace will always be stronger than violence.

One: We gather together,

Many: as people of faith in the glow of God's grace.

One: Welcome to worship.

*HYMN

We Three Kings of Orient Are

No. 66

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

The congregation may be seated.

Gracious and loving God, you call to us across deep waters and shadowy places. Like those followers of wisdom from long ago, we are guided by your light and seek your signs. We pray that you would reveal yourself to us as we worship you. May those who feel hopeless be encouraged; those who are sad feel seen and held; those who are seeking, find you. And may this service teach us to live according to your will a little bit more.

We pray all this in the name of our guide on earth, Jesus, who prayed 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.

***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.

ANTHEM

What Star is This, Which Gleams So Bright?
Chancel Choir

Howard Helvey

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

SERMON

"Look Around"

*HYMN

Love Came Down at Christmas

insert

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

How Brightly Shines the Morning Star

Johann Christoph Bach

*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 our Guide, you call us to be your star in the night, your voice in the wilderness, your hope to those who despair. You give us strength in our weakness, peace and gentleness, words and boldness, to proclaim the Good News of your love. Let these offerings aid us in work such as this. 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

O Word of God Incarnate

Matt Limbaugh

What Strangers Are These?

trad. Scottish/Michael Ryan

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

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

No. 411

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

*Carillon on "Puer Nobis"
(Unto Us is Born a Son)*

Michael Praetorius/
Douglas E. Wagner

*(*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. Katherine R. Kennedy

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

John Swanson

Mark Baddeley

Andrea Cyr

Ministers to the World

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Liturgist

Videographer

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott

Wendy Valeri

Larissa Riley

Senior Pastor

Bell Choir Director

Church School Coordinator

WA FAIR CRITIQUE AND STONE SOUP LUNCHEON: WA members will meet on January 9 at 10:30 a.m. in the vestry to do an evaluation of the various aspects of the Holiday Fair. Non-WA members who worked at the fair are also welcome to participate. After the discussion, participants will enjoy a luncheon of Stone Soup, bread and desserts. WA members and fair volunteers who would like to attend should contact Carol Lyon (cml750@comcast.net).

GAME NIGHT—SAVE THE DATE! CCA's annual Family Game Night & Potluck Supper is February 11, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. **All ages, friends and family are welcome.** We will have Bingo, cards, board games and trivia, and attendees are encouraged to bring their own favorite game to share with others. Prizes will be awarded too!

Supper is potluck style: pizza and beverages will be provided, and folks are asked to bring a side/salad/dessert to share.

A voluntary donation is welcome: \$5 for individuals/\$10 for families. RSVP is always helpful, contact Meredith Dart at m_getler@hotmail.com

BEWARE OF FALLING SNOW AND ICE: During the winter months, we want to remind everyone that snow and ice may fall from our roof at any time. Please use caution when in our driveway, and do not walk too close to the building.

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.

Sunday, January 8, 2023

Our Church Calendar

January 8—14, 2023

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
	11:15 a.m.	Youth Choir
	2:00 p.m.	Middle High Youth Group
	4:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group
Monday	10:30 a.m.	WA Fair Critique & Stone Soup Luncheon
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Diaconate
	7:00 p.m.	Trustees of the Facility
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	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