

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



"To pray, I think, does not mean to think about God in contrast to thinking about other things, or to spend time with God instead of spending time with other people. Rather, it means to think and live in the presence of God."

— Henri Nouwen

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

January 15, 2023

Creative Worship

10:00 a.m.

"Praying"

GATHERING CHIMES

Let us be gathered in silence so that we may prepare to worship.

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

Andante (Grande Piece Symphonique)

César Franck

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand in body or in spirit.

One: It is in this place of discovery
that we come searching.

**Many: We come to this place, to find
the One who has been searching for us.**

One: It is in this place of welcome
that we come knocking.

**Many: We come to this place, to be embraced
by the One whose heart is always open.**

One: It is in this place of holiness that we come with our fears,
our doubts, all the questions of our hearts.

**Many: We come to this place, to hear the words of peace,
of hope, of joy that God speaks to us.**

One: It is in this place of worship
that we bring our prayers, in word and in song.

**Many: We come to this place, to pray,
to listen, to serve, to sing!**

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

The congregation may be seated.

God of infinite patience,
You promise to listen to us,
 always.
You speak words
 of hope and grace
and offer acts
 of mercy and healing
whenever we call on your name.

Ever-listening Spirit,
You gather up all the words
 we have ever spoken,
and rearrange them into
 stories of peace and reconciliation.
You sweep up the messes
 we leave littered behind us,
and recycle them into gifts
 which soften the hardest hearts.

God in Community,
You call us together
 in the name of the One
 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.

CHILDREN'S TIME

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

Prayer for Peace
Chancel Choir

Benjamin Harlan

Scriptural Setting

Questions of Commitment

Response of Members and Friends (in unison)

We receive Nora as a new person in Christ. We offer our guidance, understanding, and support as she continues to explore and learn about our world as a child of God. We enfold her in our love, seeking together to grow in wisdom and grace, with God's help. We join with her parents and her family in telling the Gospel in our midst, so that we may all live for Christ, showing forth God's love for all people. Amen.

Pouring of the Water

The Act of Baptism

Prayer of Blessing

Presentation of Baptism Certificates

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Jeremiah 29:11-13

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.

Mark 11:22-24

Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God. Truly I tell you, if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and if you do not doubt in your heart, but believe that what you say will come to pass, it will be done for you. So I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

1 John 5:14-15

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

Philippians 4:5-8

Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:14-18

And we urge you, beloved, to encourage the faint hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

SERMON

“Pray Without Ceasing”

*HYMN

Sweet Hour of Prayer

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Always giving God, as you have done with us, may we do for others. May we be the answer to one another's prayers. Holding nothing back, offering our treasures and our lives, so that hope may be restored, healing might touch the broken, suffering might cease, and all might know your steadfast love in their lives. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*HYMN

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

No. 276

*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

One: In this place, we have heard words of healing and hope, let us go...

Many: Let us go and offer comfort to those filled with fear and doubt.

One: We have been reminded of the One who searches for us, let us go...

Many: Let us go and search for all who are lost or tossed aside.

One: We have been embraced in the love and grace of the Spirit, let us go...

Many: Let us go and open our hearts to all seeking love and grace.

One: We have sent up our prayers to our Creator God, let us go...

Many: Let us go and be the answer to our prayers.

One: In Jesus' name we pray,

Many: Amen!

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*POSTLUDE

Rondeau

Jean-Joseph Mouret

*(*Indicates that those who are able may stand.)*

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

Peter Labombarde

John Swanson

Jack and Pat Buben

Doug Topliffe

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Guest Organist

Deacon in Charge

Ushers

Videographer

Michael Havay

Wendy Valeri

Larissa Riley

Organist/Accompanist

Bell Choir Director

Church School Coordinator

WE REJOICE TODAY in the baptism of Nora Jean Pyle, daughter of Thomas and Sarah Pyle. Nora's godparents are Margaret and Laert Rusha.

WEDNESDAY MORNING ADULT ED continues January 18 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*.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-731944.

Portions of our liturgy are adapted from <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.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 December 31, 2022)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$255,597	\$242,024	\$13,573
Expenses	\$247,067	\$252,757	\$(5,689)
Net Income	\$ 8,529	\$(10,733)	\$19,262

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 15, 2023

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SING in our Youth Choir? This group, led by Mrs. Phelps, meets in the vestry after church school on Sundays. Open to all ages! Grab a snack in the community room and come join us!

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

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.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for January 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!



The Sunday **Joys and Concerns** are emailed to those who want to include them in their daily personal prayers.

If you would like to receive them each week, please let Andrea in the church office know: andrea@ccamherst.org.

Our Church Calendar

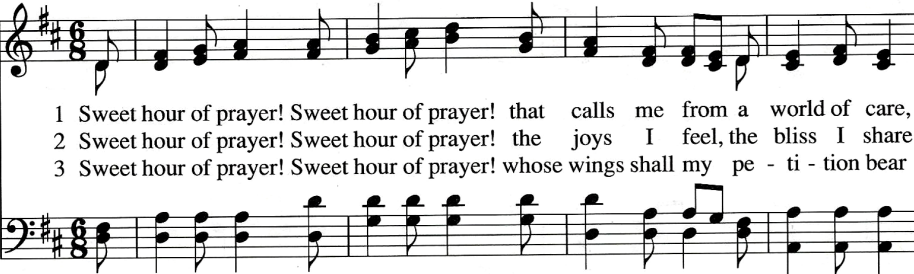
January 15—21, 2023

Some events are taking place virtually.

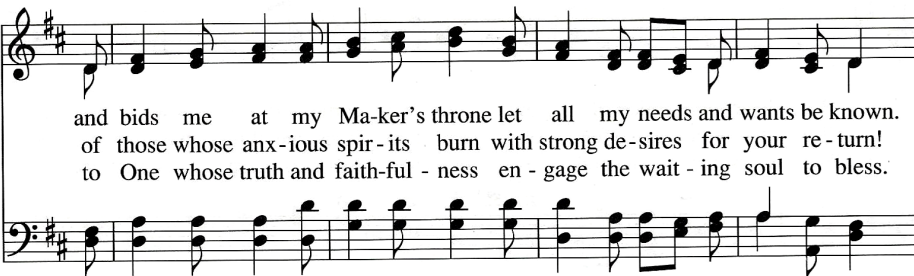
Links are sent out directly by email, and a list of recurring meetings with their links can be found in the member section of our website.

Today	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:15 a.m.	Fellowship
	11:15 a.m.	Youth Choir
	4:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	WA Board
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday Morning Adult Ed
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir

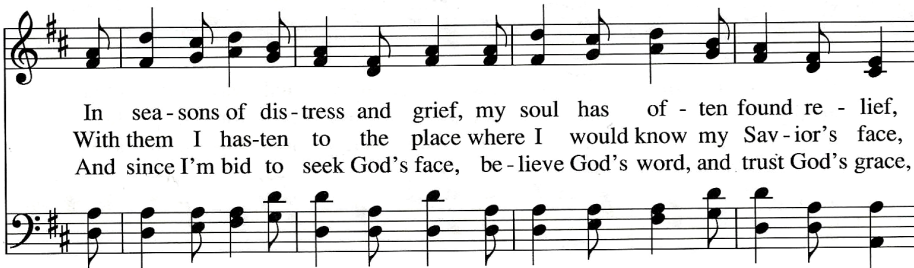
Sweet Hour of Prayer

William Walford, 1845; alt.


1 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! that calls me from a world of care,
 2 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! the joys I feel, the bliss I share
 3 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! whose wings shall my pe - ti - tion bear



and bids me at my Ma-ker's throne let all my needs and wants be known.
 of those whose anx-ious spir-its burn with strong de-sires for your re-turn!
 to One whose truth and faith-ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing soul to bless.



In sea-sons of dis-tress and grief, my soul has of - ten found re - lief,
 With them I has-ten to the place where I would know my Sav-ior's face,
 And since I'm bid to seek God's face, be - lieve God's word, and trust God's grace,



and oft es-caped the tempt-er's snare by your re - turn, sweet hour of prayer!
 And glad - ly take my sta - tion there, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!
 I'll cast a - way my ev - ery care, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!

Although credited to a different poet when first published in 1845, researchers believe this hymn was written by William Walford. William Bradbury, a highly trained musician, sang under Lowell Mason in Boston and also wrote "Jesus Loves Me."

Tune: SWEET HOUR L.M.D.
 William B. Bradbury, 1861



PRAAYER