

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



“When Jesus said, “I am the way,” He meant that to have a true relationship with God, you must practice His way.”

– Thich Nhat Hanh, Living Buddha, Living Christ

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

January 29, 2023

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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

Here I Am, Lord
Bell Choir

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand in body or in spirit.

One: Listen to the good news!

Many: We are people on the way...

One: We are people seeking wisdom, truth, and gentleness.

Many: in a world that rewards ignorance, duplicity, and tyranny.

One: We are people whom God refuses to abandon

Many: when we choose destructive ways in our moments of weakness.

One: We are people on the way to lives of faith, hope, and love...

Many: Lives of justice, kindness, and humbleness.

One: We are people on the way...

All: So let's sing and give thanks to God!

*HYMN

How Great Thou Art
verses 1 & 2 only

No. 467

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

The congregation may be seated.

Loving God, you who made everything in the universe, from the stars in the sky to the lint in our pockets, surround us now with a deep sense of your mercy and grace. Enfold us in peace, so that we can hear with open minds and pray with open hearts. Uplift us with joy, so that we can sing out loud and smile openly at our neighbor. Wrap us in love, so that we can bring our highs and lows to you this day, now in this hour of worship.

We ask 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.

*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

For the Beauty of the Earth
Chancel Choir

John Rutter

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the Lord has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

'O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!
For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.'

'With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

SERMON "Marble Jars"

*HYMN *Come, Labor On* No. 415
verses 1, 2 & 3 only

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

*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)

Lord, may this offering be a sign that we have taken your word to heart this day. That we intend to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, in ways big and small, with our time, talent, and treasure. We pray this in Jesus's name, Amen.

*HYMN *Lead On, Eternal King* No. 447

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE *Fantasia in C Major* J.S. Bach

*(*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. 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
 Wendy Valeri
 Peter Labombarde
 John Swanson
 Sally Bowkett
 Paul and Sue Spiess
 Andrea Cyr

Ministers to the World
 Senior Pastor
 Associate Pastor
 Director of Music
 Bell Choir Director
 Guest Organist/Accompanist
 Deacon in Charge
 Liturgist
 Ushers
 Videographer

Michael Havay
 Larissa Riley

Organist/Accompanist
 Church School Coordinator

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FEBRUARY 12:

The Budget and Finance Team will provide an update on the current financial status of the church, as well as a preliminary budget overview for the next fiscal year (FY24). This meeting will be held in the community room after worship, and a Zoom link will be available for those unable to join us in person. All members are encouraged to attend; childcare will be available. The Zoom link and password for online participation will be emailed next week. This meeting is for informational purposes only, we will not be voting on anything.

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!

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.

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

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED on Sunday mornings to help run the live-stream camera and computer during worship. It's easy and we are hoping to train a few more folks so the rotation is easy on everyone. Contact Doug Topliffe (dtopliff@rcn.com) if you'd like to learn.

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 bruce23@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!

DONATED ALTAR FLOWERS WELCOME: Flowers can be given to remember a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion. The donor arranges with a local florist to have their chosen flowers delivered, or can create their own arrangement and bring it on Sunday. After the service they may take the flowers home or donate them to someone in need of some cheer. There are many openings in the coming months. Contact Andrea in the church office to schedule a Sunday.



**CCA's Annual
Game Night**
Saturday, 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

Sunday, January 29, 2023

Our Church Calendar

January 29—February 4, 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
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday Morning Adult Ed
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir