

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



*"If there's a sliver of dark in a sunny garden, you'd never spot it,  
the light's stronger and quicker and the eye goes looking for it.  
If you think of the world like that, it doesn't seem as bad a place."*

— Emma Stonex, *The Lamplighters*

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

February 5, 2023

Fifth 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

*Andante*

Mendelssohn

### INTROIT

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

*Please stand in body or in spirit.*

One: Still Speaking God, wanderer of seashores and sidewalks,

**Many: You call us.**

One: Inviting us to sail out of our safe harbors,

**Many: into the uncharted waters of faith,**

One: to wander off from our predictable paths,

**Many: to follow in the unpredictable footsteps of Jesus,**

One: to leave the comfort of our homes and churches,

**Many: and accompany you into the unlit places we often avoid.**

One: As we wander, with our sometimes chaotic, always uncertain lives,

**Many: show us the way, Spirit of Light:**

One: towards hope which is our anchor;

**Many: towards peace which is our rock;**

One: towards grace which is our refuge.

**All: Hear us as we worship - in our words, prayers, and song!**

### \*HYMN

*All Creatures of Our God and King*  
verses 1, 2 & 3 only

No. 455

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

*The congregation may be seated.*

Holy One,

You are the God who shines your light through us,  
promising to brighten the darkened, broken places,  
even as it comes in the midst of a hard, deep call.

You are the God who calls people like us,  
and the long list of ordinary and extraordinary people before us,  
who trusted your promise enough to follow.

So we give you thanks that you are a calling God,  
who calls us to new places, dangerous places, unexpected places.  
We pray that we may be among those who believe your promises  
enough to respond to your call.  
Give us the courage to light the way before us and behind us,  
so that others may follow.

We pray in the name of the one who embodied your promise,  
who lived your call, and 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

SACRAMENT OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

Callum Noah Kennedy

Scriptural Setting

Questions of Commitment

Response of Members and Friends (in unison)

**We receive Callum as a new person in Christ. We offer our guidance, understanding, and support as he continues to explore and learn about our world as a child of God. We enfold him in our love, seeking together to grow in wisdom and grace, with God's help. We join with his parents and his 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 Certificate

*Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

*Gather By the River to Pray*  
Chancel Choir

arr. Pepper Choplin

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 5:13-20

“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

SERMON

“Lighting the Way”

\*HYMN

*Open My Eyes That I May See*

No. 324

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)

**Great Giving God, you call us to leave behind what holds us back and to follow your light into something new. Sometimes we find your call challenging. We are comfortable where we are. May this act of giving be a gesture of our trust and our willingness to follow wherever you lead. 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.**

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

COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

**We give thanks, loving God, for the bond of this ritual and communal meal that links us to all who have called upon your name. May your wisdom grow within us. May your word inspire us. May the nourishment of this bread and cup strengthen us for the journey, as you send us out into the world as people of courage, compassion, and commitment. Amen.**

\*HYMN

*Lord of Light, Your Name Outshining*  
verses 1, 3 & 4 only

No. 425

\*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

\*POSTLUDE

*Toccata*

Buxtehude

(\*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.*

*Portions of the liturgy are adapted from Awed to Heaven,  
Rooted in Earth: Prayers of Walter Brueggemann.*

# 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](mailto: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](http://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

Steve Boczenowski

Mark Baddeley

Tim Wiegand

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Guest Organist

Deacon in Charge

Liturgist

Videographer

\*\*\*\*\*

Michael Havay

Wendy Valeri

Larissa Riley

Organist/Accompanist

Bell Choir Director

Church School Coordinator

**WE REJOICE TODAY** in the baptism of Callum Noah Kennedy, son of Pastor Kate and Rufy Kennedy. Callum's godparents are Bruce Adams and Amy Flynn.

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FEBRUARY 12:**

**Next Sunday**, 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 to members this 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	YTD	
	<u>Actual</u>	<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.*

**Adult Education Event:**  
**A Second Hour with Dr. Gina Zurlo**  
**Sunday, February 19 after worship**



On Sunday, February 19, Dr. Gina Zurlo, author of the book *Global Christianity: A Guide to the World's Largest Religion from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe*, will join us for a Second Hour presentation and discussion, in the vestry immediately after worship. Dr. Zurlo is Co-Director of the Center for the Study of Global Christianity at the Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Hamilton, Massachusetts, and a research fellow at Boston University's Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs. She was named one of the BBC's most inspiring and influential women of 2019 for her work in quantifying religion worldwide. Dr. Zurlo will discuss the history, demographics and trends of global Christianity, and how these bear on worldwide issues today.

This event is an outgrowth of our church school program for the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> grades, which incorporates lessons about the spread of Christianity throughout the world. **Please join us for this exciting and educational event!**

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** on Sunday mornings to help run the livestream 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 bruceman23@comcast.net.

**SHARE FOOD PANTRY** requests for February include canned fruit, flour, sugar, boxed cake mixes and baking supplies, coffee and tea, juice, and granola. 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!

**PREPARED TO SERVE** is a fun learning event for everyone in our church, sponsored by the New Hampshire Conference, UCC. With over 50 workshops, this promises to be a very special time for those who gather. Prepared to Serve takes place on Saturday, **February 25** at Pembroke Academy in Pembroke, NH. Information is available through the church office, and online at [www.nhcucc.org](http://www.nhcucc.org).

**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.

**SAVE THE DATE!** Vacation Bible School will be held August 14-18, 2023.

**DROP OFF: Congregational Church of Amherst**

**11 Church St Amherst NH 03031**

**SHOW YOUR  FOR SHARE**

**FOOD **



**DRIVE**

**LET'S FEED THOSE IN NEED**



**MOST NEEDED ITEMS**

Cooking Oil

Salad Dressing: Ranch & Italian

Basic Condiments

Snacks: Granola Bars, Fruit Cups, Cheese &  
Crackers, Peanut Butter Crackers, etc.

Cold Cereals

Coffee, Tea, Juice, Juice Boxes

Broth: Chicken, Beef, Vegetable

Canned Tomato: Diced, Stewed, Whole

Sugar, Flour

Paper Towels, Toilet Paper

Dog & Cat Food

**Saturday Feb 11th  
9-11am**

**Sunday Feb 12th  
11am-1pm**

# Let Your Light Shine!



*Sunday, February 5, 2023*



## CCA's Annual Game Night

Saturday, February 11 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**All ages, friends and family are welcome.**

RSVP to Meredith Dart at [m\\_getler@hotmail.com](mailto:m_getler@hotmail.com)



We will have Bingo, ping pong, 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.

## Our Church Calendar

**February 5—11, 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
	11:30 a.m.	Small Group Ministry
	2:00 p.m.	Middle High Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Tuesday	1:30 p.m.	Small Group Ministry
	4:30 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Budget & 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	5:00 p.m.	Game Night