

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



"There are times when in saying "yes" to others, he is actually saying "no" to himself. That is why he never says "yes" with his lips if, in his heart, he is saying "no."

— Paulo Coelho

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

February 12, 2023

Sixth 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

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand in body or in spirit.

One: We come to worship seeking a path.

Many: A path to wholeheartedness, a path to joy, a path to peace.

One: We come to worship seeking truth.

Many: Truth about the world, truth about love, truth about ourselves.

One: We come to worship seeking relationship.

Many: Relationship built on shared values, hope, and authenticity.

One: Here we are at worship together.

All: May this time set us on a path of wisdom and belonging.

*HYMN

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less
verses 1, 2 & 4 only

No. 379

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

The congregation may be seated.

Loving God,
may we be here now.

For this one hour,
may the tasks at home wait.
May the email to send, or the bag to pack, or the dinner to prepare,

stand quietly outside the sanctuary doors,
allowing us some time to rest
from the relentless doing of our lives.

For this one hour,
may our spirit be focused on you.
May our thoughts be on your word,
and our hearts be on prayer.

May we be here now.

This we pray in Jesus's name, who gave us this prayer:

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

Steal Away
Chancel Choir

Brazeal Dennard

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 5:21-37

'You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, "You shall not murder"; and "whoever murders shall be liable to judgement." But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgement; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, "You fool", you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

'You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery." But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

‘It was also said, “Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.” But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

‘Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.” But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be “Yes, Yes” or “No, No”; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

SERMON

“Yes, Yes” or “No, No”

*HYMN

God Marked a Line and Told the Sea

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

*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)

Holy One, when we give our gifts of time, talent, and treasure, may we do so with complete and joyful commitment to your saving work in the world. We offer these gifts as an affirmation of our faith, and proclamation of our hope in you. Amen.

*HYMN

Take My Life

No. 391

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

*(*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

Steve Boczenowski

Doug Topliffe

Bruce and Susan Manchester

Andrea Cyr

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Guest Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Liturgist

Ushers

Videographer

Michael Havay

Wendy Valeri

Larissa Riley

Organist/Accompanist

Bell Choir Director

Church School Coordinator

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY: After worship today, 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 and a Zoom link is 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 was emailed to members this week. This meeting is for informational purposes only, we will not be voting on anything.

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.

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

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

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.

WA VALENTINE LUNCHEON: The Woman's Association welcomes all women, members or non-members, to the annual Valentine Luncheon, on Monday, **February 13**, from 10:30 to 12:30 in the Vestry. If you have any questions or would like to sign up, please contact Kay Steeves (kksteeves@gmail.com or 978-337-1041).

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.

LENTEN STUDY SERIES: For four Wednesday evenings during Lent, we will gather on Zoom to discuss a wonderful new Lenten study: ***Meeting Jesus at the Table***, by Cynthia M. Campbell and Christine Coy Fohr. Pastor Maureen and Pastor Kate will alternate as facilitators of the sessions. The book is available for order online and we'll have copies in the church office available for purchase for \$15. RSVP to pastormaureen@ccamherst.org to receive the Zoom link.

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!

Ash Wednesday Service

February 22 at 7:00 p.m.

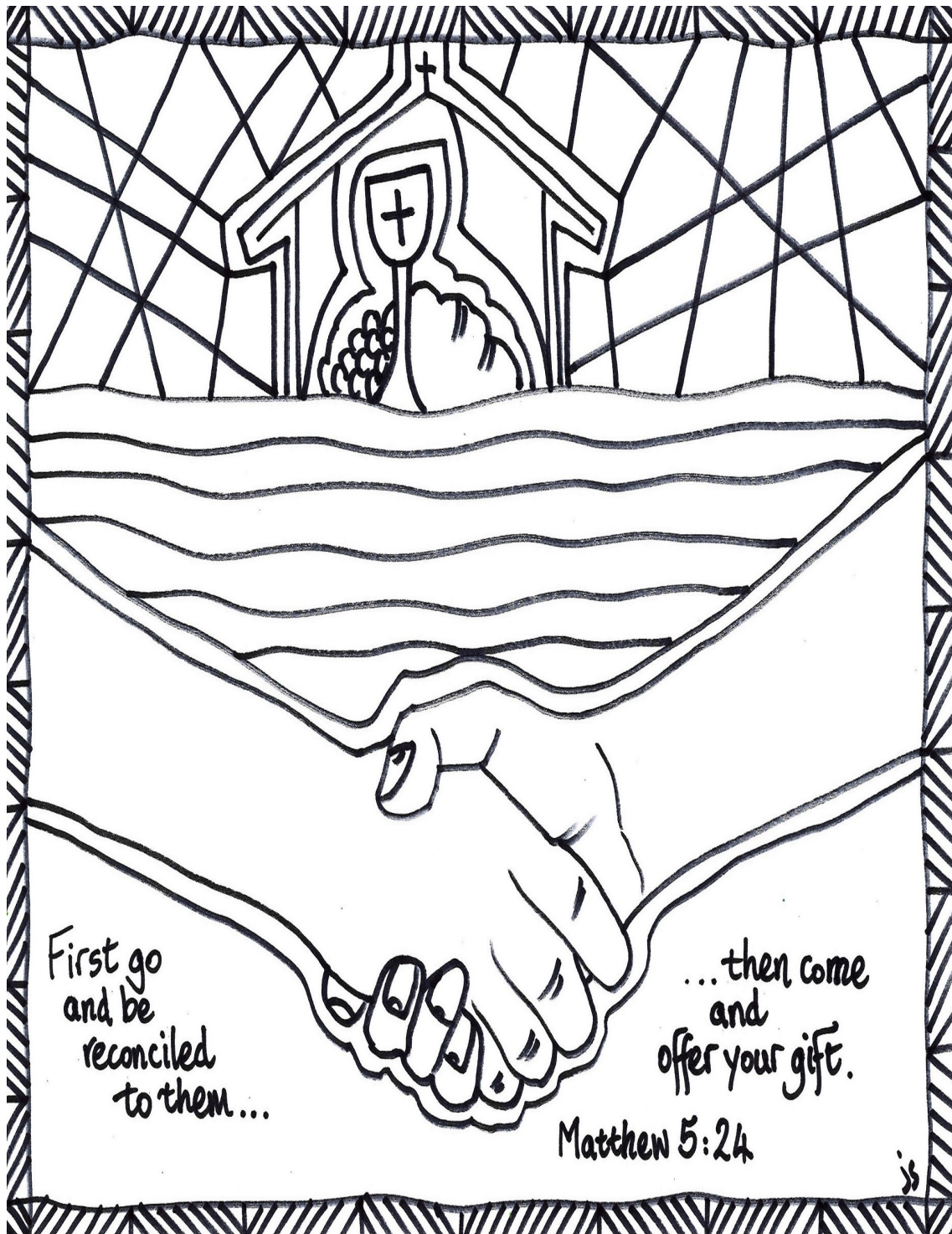


Join us in the sanctuary as we begin the season of Lent with our traditional Ash Wednesday service. We will come together for a time of contemplative prayer, readings, special music, communion, and the distribution of ashes.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit." ~ Psalm 51

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.

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.



First go
and be
reconciled
to them...

... then come
and
offer your gift.

Matthew 5:24

is

God Marked a Line and Told the Sea

568

Thomas H. Troeger, 1986

Job 38:1-11; Gen. 2:15-17; 3:1-7

1 God marked a line and told the sea its
 2 God set one lim - it in the glade where
 3 The line, the lim - it, and the law are
 4 But, dis - con - tent with fi - nite powers, we
 5 We are not free when we're con - fined to

surg - ing tides and waves were free To trav - el up the
 tempt-ing, fruit - ed branch-es swayed. And that first lim - it
 pat - terns meant to help us draw A bound be - tween what
 reach to take what is not ours And then de - fend our
 ev - ery wish that sweeps the mind. But free when free - ly

slop - ing strand but not to o - ver - take the land.
 stands be - hind the lim - its that the law de - fined.
 life re - quires and all the things our heart de - sires.
 claim by force and swerve from life's in - tend - ed course.
 we ac - cept the sa - cred bounds that must be kept.

Thomas Troeger has provided the following commentary on this text: "It was written as a polemical poem to counter spurious ideas of freedom as undisciplined license, and to affirm how the profoundest liberty involves a sense of boundaries and structure."

Tune: KEDRON L.M.
 Attrib. to Elkanah Kelsay Dare in
 Amos Pillsbury's United States Harmony, 1799

Sunday, February 12, 2023

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 5th, 6th, and 7th grades, which incorporates lessons about the spread of Christianity throughout the world. **Please join us for this exciting and educational event!**

Our Church Calendar
February 12—18, 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.	Preliminary Budget Meeting
	12:30 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group
Monday	10:30 a.m.	WA Valentines Luncheon
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Diaconate
	7:00 p.m.	Trustees of the Facility
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday Morning Adult Ed
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir