

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



*"We are called each day to present to the Lord the whole of our lives—
our joys as well as sorrows, our successes as well as failures,
our hopes as well as fears. We are called to do so with our limited means,
our stuttering words and halting expressions. In this way we will come
to know in mind and heart the unceasing prayer of God's Spirit in us."*

— Henri Nouwen

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

February 19, 2023

Creative Worship

10:00 a.m.

“Healing”

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

Prayer
Bell Choir

Jeanne C. Warzyn

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand in body or in spirit.

One: We gather for worship, seeking healing . . .

Many: for ourselves, for our communities, for all of creation.

One: We gather for worship, seeking healing . . .

Many: for broken promises, buried hurts, unfulfilled longings.

One: We gather for worship, seeking healing . . .

Many: for the worries that trap us, the fears that silence us, the anger that haunts us.

One: We gather for worship, seeking healing . . .

Many: from the gift of God’s grace, mercy, and love that fills us.

One: We gather for worship, seeking healing . . .

Many: from the gift of this community, the gift of this time together.

One: We gather for worship, seeking healing . . .

**Many: knowing we are not alone—
God’s healing Spirit is moving among us now!**

*HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
verses 1, 2 & 4 only

No. 376

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

The congregation may be seated.

God of Grace and Mercy,
in baptism you anointed us
to live boldly in the reality of your coming reign.
Today we come before you acknowledging that we struggle to fulfill our calling.
We have not used your power to serve our neighbors.
We have turned our backs to oppression and injustice.
We have walked away from your beloved children
who hunger and thirst in a world of plenty.

We also struggle with feelings of unworthiness.
We carry a mantle of blame and shame
that tells us we are unworthy of forgiveness,
unworthy of love,
unworthy of serving in your name.

We call on you today, healing God,
to make us courageous servants
of your justice, peace, and wholeness.
We pray in the name of the one who embodied your healing presence,
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.

CHILDREN'S TIME

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Loving God, we often struggle to live as your children.

Many: God, forgive us.

One: We don't treat others as we wish to be treated.

Many: God, forgive us.

One: We say things that are hurtful and cause others pain.

Many: God, forgive us.

One: We don't share what we have with others.

Many: God, forgive us.

One: We don't speak up when others are bullied or treated unfairly.

Many: God, forgive us.

One: We forget that Jesus called us to live as he lived.

Many: God, forgive us.

One: We forget that you love us all, no matter who we are or what we have done.

Many: God, forgive us.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (unison)

God, we are sorry. We have all messed up, failed, missed the mark. We have all caused harm, sometimes in little ways, sometimes in huge ways. This is part of being human. But we know that you love us and forgive us, always. Amen.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

Holy is the Lord
Bell Choir

arr. Kevin McChesney

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 51:1-3,6,10

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Psalm 32:1-6

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.
Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.
Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

Mark 1:4-8

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

1 John 1:5-9

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

James 5:13-16

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.

SERMON

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

*HYMN

Just as I Am, Without One Plea

No. 370

JOYS AND CONCERNS and LITANY OF ATONEMENT

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.

One: For remaining silent when a single voice would have made a difference

Many: We forgive ourselves and each other; we begin again in love.

One: For each time that our fears have made us rigid and inaccessible

Many: We forgive ourselves and each other; we begin again in love.

One: For each time that we have struck out in anger without just cause

Many: We forgive ourselves and each other; we begin again in love.

One: For each time that our self-centeredness has blinded us to the needs of others

Many: We forgive ourselves and each other; we begin again in love.

One: For failing to see the image of God reflected in one another

Many: We forgive ourselves and each other; we begin again in love.

One: For losing sight of Jesus' command to love God and one another

Many: We forgive ourselves and each other; we begin again in love.

One: For these, and for so many acts, both evident and subtle,
which have fueled the illusion of separateness, from one another and our God

**Many: We forgive ourselves and each other; we begin again in love.
We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.**

CHORAL RESPONSE

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*SONG OF DEDICATION (Tune: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*)

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.

BLESSING OF THE OFFERING (in unison)

Bless this offering, Great God of Love. May it travel within and beyond this place, blessing all those who need hope and comfort. We give these gifts with thanksgiving, hoping that our gratitude may be a part of the healing of ourselves and of the world. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

*HYMN

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

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*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Tuba Tune in D Major

C. S. Lang

(*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
the Rev. Shannan R. Vance-Ocampo and
the Rev. Nathan Williams, posted on liturgylink.net;
and the Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs, Singing the Living Tradition, UUA.*

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

Wendy Valeri

Steve Boczenowski

Deb Boczenowski, Linda Lannin

Doug Topliffe

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Guest Organist

Bell Choir Director

Deacon in Charge

Ushers

Videographer

Michael Havay

Larissa Riley

Organist/Accompanist

Church School Coordinator

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.

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.

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

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

Adult Education Event:
A Second Hour with Dr. Gina Zurlo
This Sunday after worship



This Sunday, 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 TODAY for this exciting and educational event!**

Financial Summary
(as of January 31, 2023)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$300,879	\$270,877	\$30,003
Expenses	\$281,282	\$288,046	\$ (6,764)
Net Income	\$ 19,598	\$ (17,169)	\$36,767

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.

Our Church Calendar
February 19—25, 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.	Second Hour
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Service
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir

God forgives!



S&S link: Christian Life and Faith: Biblical and Christian Foundation: Jesus, God's Son-1e
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Sunday, February 19, 2023