

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



*“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen:
not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.”*

— C.S. Lewis

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

March 12, 2023

Third Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m.

Woman's Association Sunday

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

O Could I Speak the Matchless Worth

W.A. Mozart/
Marilyn Thompson

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

One: Let's go up to the mountain top.

Many: Let's go out into the wilderness.

One: Let's go up to the place where the land meets the sky.

Many: Let's go out to the place where the earth meets the heavens.

One: To the place of meeting,

Many: to the place of mystery,

One: to the place of earnest seeking,

Many: to the place of deep listening.

One: Let's go together up to the mountain top.

Many: Let's go together out into the wilderness.

*HYMN

Let Me Enter God's Own Dwelling

inside back pages

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

The congregation may be seated.

Radiant God, we come to you on the mountaintop to experience your glory. You come to us in the valleys. We meet you in gladness in a place where heaven and earth collide. May our worship of you encourage us on the journey and make us aspire to reflect your kingdom in the world. Transform us and keep us near to you. We pray this in the name of the one who walks with us, 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.

LENTEN LITANY OF CONFESSION

One: Holy One,

Many: you made us to be full of love and hope,

One: and yet so often we are bogged down by hate and fear.

Many: You made us to live with abundance and contentment,

One: and yet so often we are filled with scarcity and want.

Many: You provide us with everything that we need,

One: and yet we still hoard our compassion and resources.

Many: Forgive us for our wavering trust.

One: Forgive us for our increasing apathy.

Many: Remind us that we do not thrive alone.

One: Remind us that we are always forgiven.

Many: We pray this in Jesus's name. 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

Ave Verum
Chancel Choir

William Byrd

*Hail, true body born of the Virgin Mary,
Who truly suffered, sacrificed on the Cross for man,
Whose pierced side overflowed with water and blood,
Be for us a foretaste in the test of death.*

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 17:1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved;

with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

SERMON "Up a High Mountain"

*HYMN *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* No. 84

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 Joan Egbertson

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Trio on "McAfee"* C.B. McAfee/
(Near to the Heart of God) Brenda Portman

*DOXOLOGY (Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH, No. 592)
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)
Holy One, remind us that we can be afraid and hopeful at the same time. Remind us that to be followers of Jesus, our faith and our actions must walk side by side. May this offering be both an act driven by faith, and an act that increases our faith, for the furthering of your Kingdom on our insides and our outsides. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

*HYMN *We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding* inside back pages

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE *Little Fugue in G minor, BWV 558* attrib. J.S. Bach

*(*Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.)*

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 WORSHIP SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Russ Demarest

Sally Bowkett

Carol Lyon, Kay Steeves, Sue Stout

Sheryl Gottwald, Jean Tonnesen, Adrienne Topliffe, Alicia Wight

Doug Topliffe

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Liturgist

Greeters

Ushers

Videographer

LEADING CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley

Dave Hagerstrom

Church School Coordinator

Teacher, Grades 5 to 7

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given in honor of the Woman's Association, with love and gratitude, Mary Howe.

TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION: WA members are taking part in the service, and everyone is invited to enjoy special refreshments at Fellowship Time, which also includes a "Pop-Up Art Sale" in the Community Room.

ANNUAL REPORTS are due to the church office April 15.

BLANKETS FOR BRUCE: Hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, homelessness and poverty are always with us. When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That's why the **CWS Blankets+** program was created—to give a loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone.

This program was very near and dear to Bruce Beckley's heart. As a congregation, our heart for mission remains strong. This is an opportunity to help make a difference, change lives, and honor Bruce's passion for mission work.

As a church family, let's join together as we take up a **Blankets for Bruce** offering. You can donate using the Blankets pew envelopes, mail a check to the church office with 'blankets' in the memo line, or donate online at our custom CWS Blankets secure donation page:

<https://cwsblankets.org/virtual/ccamherst/>

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

Parts of this service are adapted from UCC Worship Ways.

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!

LENTEN STUDY SERIES: For four Wednesday evenings during Lent, we are gathering 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 have copies in the church office available for purchase for \$15.

RSVP to pastormaureen@ccamherst.org to receive the Zoom link.

COMMUNITY SUPPER—All are welcome! We are thrilled to announce that we are again hosting a Community Supper, for the first time since COVID! Our Community Spaghetti Supper will take place at our church on Tuesday, March 28 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Our mission is to provide healthy food and friendship for all in the local community. Meet new friends and enjoy a tasty meal! Fun, food, and fellowship are guaranteed!

We will need many volunteers to host this event, so please consider signing up to volunteer. Full details can be found on our website's Community Supper webpage. For more information contact Anita Swanson or Nancy Protzmann.

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.

Our Church Calendar

March 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.	Fellowship
	11:15 a.m.	Racial Justice
	11:15 a.m.	Youth Choir
	4:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Diaconate
	7:00 p.m.	Trustees of the Facility
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday AM Adult Ed
	6:30 p.m.	Lenten Study Series
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir

Financial Summary

(as of January 31, 2023)

	YTD	YTD	
	<u>Actual</u>	<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.

“For it is in giving, that we receive.”

—Francis of Assisi

The Woman’s Association has been a part of the church and community since 1865. The Good Stuff rummage sales and The Holiday Fair have been the sources of income for our merry band of women for over 68 years. You, the congregation, have played an important role helping us reach our goals by generously sharing your time, talent, treasures, and rummage, and helped us make the following contributions between 2019 and 2022:

Holiday Toy Store	\$ 750
Camp Allen	200
SHARE	400
Bridges Domestic & Sexual Violence	900
Family Promise (Anne-Marie House)	300
Souhegan Valley Transport (Blue Bus)	800
Heifer International	200
New Hampshire Food Bank	1,750
Stepping Stones	250
Women in Transition	250
Paralyzed Veterans of America	100
CCA Annual Pledge	6,000
Capital Campaign Pledge	39,500
SHYG Mission Trip	300
Pew Bibles	280
Kitchen Supplies	<u>900</u>
	\$52,800

In addition, we give the pastors, Andrea Cyr, and the custodial staff a monetary gift every Christmas.

Sunday, March 12, 2023

An Opportunity to GIVE Is An Opportunity to SERVE

Since 1940 the Woman's Association has held a Good Stuff Sale (formerly Rummage) and a Holiday Fair to raise funds for our church and charitable endeavors. Your shared help of time, talent and treasure has helped us to serve others.

These are some of the folks that you have helped:

- ❖ A great grandmother, who has clothed generations of her family.
- ❖ A neighbor Henry, who takes 10+ bags of clothing to Liberty House, a program for homeless veterans, male and female.
- ❖ A woman, who is still replacing things they lost in a house fire.
- ❖ A woman named Ruth, who gathers bags of clothing to be sent to the Lakota people in South Dakota.
- ❖ The Amherst Lions Club has shopped for coats and jackets for people in northern New Hampshire.
- ❖ We put together bags of baby, toddler and youth clothing for the Pass Along Project, an organization that supplies foster parents with clothing items needed to care for a child.
- ❖ We help with kitchen items for teens aging out of foster care and are on their own.
- ❖ We collect household items for the Bridges organization, the Home Starter program, and more.

In the past, boy scout troops have picked up our non-clothing items. This year, those items will go to Goodwill. Our World Service Team has arranged for an Ecosmith Recyclers bin to be placed at the Meeting Place, near the Amherst Post Office, for our leftover clothing and shoe donations. Proceeds from these donations will be used to supplement our church fundraising efforts.

The Woman's Association SERVES because you all took the opportunity to GIVE. Thank you so very much!