



easter
SUNDAY

Christ Is Risen!

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

April 9, 2023

Easter Sunday

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

Christ the Lord Has Risen Today!
Bell Choir

arr. Jason W. Krug

EASTER PROCLAMATION

One: Rejoice in the good news! Christ is risen!

Many: Christ is risen indeed!

One: Death has been conquered, love has won!

Many: Christ is risen indeed!

One: Let all the earth proclaim this joy!

Many: Christ is risen indeed!

All: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

One: This is the day -

**Many: hope tiptoes in the garden;
guiding us through the shadows.**

One: This is the day the Lord -

**Many: plants joy in our winter hearts;
drowning out despair with laughter.**

One: This is the day the Lord has made -
Many: **the day grace does cartwheels in graveyards;
and an empty tomb fills us with good news.**

One: This is the day the Lord has made -
Many: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

*HYMN

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

No. 123

PRAYER OF INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)
The congregation may be seated.

Living God, long ago,
faithful followers of Jesus
proclaimed the good news of the Resurrection,
and the world was changed forever.
Teach us to keep faith with them,
that our witness may be as bold,
our love as deep,
and our faith as true.
Help us to be an Easter people.
Believing that out of despair will come hope,
out of darkness will come light,
out of sadness will come joy,
and out of death, new life will rise.
May we feel your Spirit moving among us now,
O God, as we pray the words of Jesus:

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.

*SONG OF PRAISE (tune: LLANFAIR)

Christ appears in full array, Alleluia!
Sing with joy this Paschal day, Alleluia!
Christ now from the dead is raised, Alleluia!
Holy Trinity be praised, Alleluia!

CHILDREN'S TIME

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

With a Voice of Singing
Chancel Choir

Martin Shaw

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

SERMON

"Raised from the Dead"

*HYMN

Thine Is the Glory

No. 122

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

Psalm 100: Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord

Justin Heinrich Knecht/
Jon Spong

*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)

Generous and surprising God, when we thought that death had claimed your only Son, you amazed us with the resurrection. Surprise us again with your ability to turn these humble offerings into gifts that will transform the world through our witness to your love. We lay our very lives at your feet, O God, knowing that you will use us to proclaim and embody the gospel. Amen.

*HYMN

Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

No. 104

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Toccata on "All Creatures of Our God and King"

Gilbert M. Martin

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

*Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service
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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 on break this Easter Sunday. We’ll resume next Sunday.
- 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.

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
 Wendy Valeri
 Gail Wiegand
 Susan and Don Holden
 Colleen Cushing, Avis Moller
 Doug Topliffe

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

A REMINDER to all committees and ministry coordinators—**annual reports** are due in to the church office by April 15. Thank you!

KENTUCKY DERBY SOCIAL: Wear your favorite derby hat/attire and join us on Saturday, May 6 at 5:30 p.m. for this fun annual event, hosted by Sue and Bruce Manchester along with the Fellowship team. All generations are welcome and if weather cooperates we will have bubbles and yard games for the kiddos. This is a potluck style event: last names A-L please bring a side dish or a salad; M-Z please bring an appetizer or dessert. BYOB.

Please RSVP to Meredith Dart: email meredith.dart@astellas.com, or via text or call (603) 305-9065.

FAITH PROMISE: Our 2023-2024 fiscal year **Stewardship Campaign** is underway. As of Wednesday, April 5, we have received pledges from 82 families, totaling \$252,474. Thank you to all that have responded so far. To those who are still considering your pledge, you can email your intents to Andrea at andrea@ccamherst.org, mail in your pledge intentions, call Andrea (673-3231) or go to the church website <https://www.ccamherst.org/stewardship-pledge/>

Our Church Calendar

April 9—15, 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	7:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Easter AM Worship Easter Worship Fellowship
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Tuesday	7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Diaconate Trustees of the Facility
Wednesday	9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting Stewardship
Thursday	9:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Congregational Care Communications AP Search Team Bell Choir Chancel Choir
Friday	12:00 p.m.	Racial Justice Group

Sunday, April 9, 2023 Easter

Jesus Is Alive!

