

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



*"For me, I am driven by two main philosophies:  
know more today about the world than I knew yesterday  
and lessen the suffering of others.  
You'd be surprised how far that gets you."*

– Neil deGrasse Tyson

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

May 14, 2023

Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

*Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart*

Arthur H. Messiter/  
Lani Smith

### INTROIT

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

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

One: We come to worship our Creator God,  
**Many: Who crafted the universe around us  
and formed us to live and love within it;**

One: We come to worship our Caring God,  
**Many: Who nudges us away from fear  
and guides us toward faith;**

One: We come to worship our Ever-Present God,  
**Many: Who fills us with awe  
and encourages us to ask questions that lack easy answers;**

One: We come to worship our Inspiring God,  
**Many: Who uses our curiosity and ingenuity  
to continue to create through us!**

#### \*HYMN

*For the Beauty of the Earth*  
verses 1, 2, 3 & 4 only

No. 473

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

*The congregation may be seated.*

Still Speaking God,

Open our eyes to see you in all aspects of our Created world —

in the sunset and the storm cloud, in the soaring spirits and shattered dreams.

Strengthen our hearts for the challenges that we face –

in finding order in the midst of chaos, in living with chaos when we crave order.

Open our ears this hour to hear your voice all around us –

in the words that bring comfort and joy, in the words that bring discomfort and sorrow.

In all things, we welcome your presence, O God.

May we feel you moving among us now, as we pray the words that Jesus taught us:

**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

Maya Rose Gascoyne

Scriptural Setting

Questions of Commitment

Response of Members and Friends (in unison)

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

*Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

*The Road Home*  
Chancel Choir

Stephen Paulus

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 17:22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

SERMON

"We Are God's Offspring"

\*HYMN

*I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry*

inside back pages

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

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT and OFFERING INVITATION

Doug Topliffe

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*Holy Spirit, Light Our Darkness*

Robert J. Powell

\*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 God, your gift of Creation, love, and grace is offered to all of your children as you long to live in relationship with us. You wait expectantly to hear our response. In this hushed moment, we respond by offering the gift of ourselves. We respond in gratitude for what you have given us. We respond by committing our time, talent, and treasure to further the reach of your love. We respond because we long to live in relationship with you. Amen.

\*HYMN

*God, You Spin the Whirling Planets*

No. 285

\*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

\*POSTLUDE

*Crown Him Lord of All!*

James Ellor/  
Gilbert M. Martin

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

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

# 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](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 WORSHIP SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church

Rev. Maureen R. Prescott

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Kathleen Bouchard

Dick Stout

Doug and Adrienne Topliffe

Patricia Bodan

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Liturgist

Ushers

Videographer

\*\*\*\*\*

## LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley

Deb Boczenowski, Sue Werst

Dave Hagerstrom

Church School Coordinator

Teachers, Preschool to Elementary

Teacher, Grades 5 to 7

**WE REJOICE TODAY** in the baptism of Maya Rose Gascoyne, daughter of Shannon and Joe Gascoyne.

**WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION'S Annual Meeting and Potluck Salad Luncheon:** WA members and friends are invited to attend our celebration of Spring and the year's accomplishments on Tuesday, May 23rd at 10:30 a.m. in the vestry. For generations the WA has been a contributor to our church and community, and for generations our friends and church family have been by our side helping us reach our goals. Our success is due to your support, so please come and share our joy!

The brief meeting portion of the morning will include Adrienne's Annual Report and Installation of Officers, followed by a potluck of delicious salads and desserts.

Please contact Judi Dunbar at (603) 673-2823 or [judidunbar@aol.com](mailto:judidunbar@aol.com) to sign up and prevent a duplication of dishes.

**SHARE FOOD PANTRY** requests for May include canned ham, canned meats, side dishes (seasoned pasta mix, hamburger helper, etc.), ravioli & beefaroni. 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!

### Financial Summary

(as of April 30, 2023)

|            | YTD           | YTD           |                   |
|------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
|            | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Difference</u> |
| Income     | \$377,284     | \$361,724     | \$15,560          |
| Expenses   | \$382,472     | \$385,593     | \$ (3,121)        |
| Net Income | \$ (5,187)    | \$ (23,869)   | \$18,682          |

*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.*

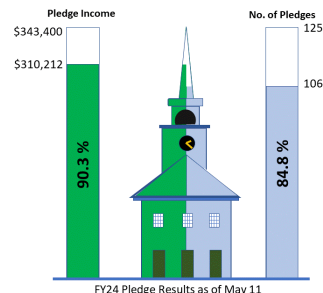
# *God Made Everything!*





# Updated Results of Our Faith Promise Stewardship Campaign

Our 2023-2024 fiscal year **Stewardship Campaign** is underway. 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](mailto:andrea@ccamherst.org), mail in your pledge intentions, call Andrea (673-3231) or go to the church website <https://www.ccamherst.org/stewardship-pledge/>.



Gail Agans  
 Patricia Ansdell  
 Shayna Appel  
 Herb & Emily Archer  
 Mark & Fran Baddeley  
 Cynthia Baker  
 Alison Batey  
 Terri Behm & Ken D'Ambrosio  
 Ken & Charlotte Bell  
 Steve & Deb Boczenowski  
 Patricia Bodan  
 Jessica & Joao Bortolotto  
 Sally Bowkett  
 Jack & Pat Buben  
 Carole Byatt  
 Claire Choiniere  
 Scott & Sandra Comstock  
 Robert & Sydney Conti  
 Wayne & Audrey Croswell  
 Colleen Cushing  
 Obadiah & Meredith Dart  
 Camille Davis  
 Tyler & Gretchen Davis  
 Russell & Sandra Demarest  
 Susan Deschenes & Fred Dyke  
 Cynthia Dokmo  
 Judi Dunbar  
 William & Joan Dunn  
 Greg & Jennifer Eccleston  
 Stephen Egbertson  
 Joan Egbertson  
 Alvin & Heidi Fortune  
 Maureen Prescott  
 Cheryl Gagne  
 Andre & Nancy Gagnon  
 Edith Gambee

Sheryl Gottwald  
 Nathan & Jessica Greer  
 Brian & Alice Handwerk  
 Patricia Harris  
 Michael Havay  
 Gene Heighton  
 Leona Hendrickson  
 John & Linda Herrin  
 Scott & Sally Hewett  
 Susan & Don Holden  
 Roger & Sally Hooper  
 Kelly & Stephen Isaacs  
 Kathy Johnson  
 Wilene Knight  
 Rosmarie Krosch  
 Peter & Irene Labombarde  
 Keith & Gail Lammers  
 Tedd & Carol Landon  
 Linda Lannin  
 Arthur & Victoria Leknes  
 Elizabeth Levesque  
 Donald & Carol Lyon  
 Joan Lyons  
 Heather MacDonald &  
 William Dallas  
 Elizabeth MacMillan &  
 Hamilton Stewart  
 Bruce & Susan Manchester  
 Sarah & Bob Merrigan  
 Ingrid Michaelis  
 Gail Miller & Lee Bowley  
 Kerri Miller  
 Howell Mitchell  
 Avis Moller  
 Mary Moore  
 Jeanne & Mike Neverisky

Judy Peterson  
 David & Sara Phelps  
 David & Joan Poltack  
 Nancy & Daniel Protzmann  
 Chris & Gretchen Pyles  
 Craig & Katherine Richardson  
 Anne Riehl  
 Travis & Larissa Riley  
 Robert Rowe  
 Susan Ruggiero  
 Carol St. Jean  
 Vic & Carolin Sanchez  
 Paul & Maggie Schellenberg  
 Kelly & Casey Schmidt  
 Beth Secor  
 Emil & Kathryn Skoglund  
 Paul & Susan Spiess  
 Richard & Kathleen Steeves  
 Sean & Ann Stevenson  
 Richard & Susan Stout  
 Audrey & Marshall Strickland  
 John & Anita Swanson  
 William Swift  
 Kate & Keith Thompson  
 Holly Tonnesen  
 Jean Tonnesen  
 Douglas & Adrienne Topliffe  
 Sally & Michael Varanka  
 Charles & Rolinda Vars  
 Martha Warren  
 Thomas & Susan Werst  
 Todd & Jennifer Whitney  
 Tim & Gail Wiegand  
 Alicia Wight  
 Ken & Barbara Wolfe  
 Jodi Woroski & Gwenael Busnel

CONFIRMATION

351

# I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

John Ylvisaker, 1985; alt

*Unison*

1 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be  
 2 When you found the won - der of the Word, I was  
 3 In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too  
 4 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be

there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you  
 there to cheer you on; You were raised to praise the  
 old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you  
 there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you

were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold.  
 liv - ing God, to whom you now be - long.  
 through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.  
 were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold. *St. 4, end*

I was there when you were but a child, with a  
 Should you find some-one to share your time and you  
 When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you

John Ylvisaker is the composer of a number of collections of music in the "contemporary" or "folk" idiom, as well as soundtracks for various media productions. This is perhaps his best-known song.

Tune: BORNING CRY 9.7.9.6.D.  
 John Ylvisaker, 1985

# CONFIRMATION

The musical score is written for a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The tempo and style are not specified. The lyrics are arranged in three lines, with the first line of lyrics corresponding to the first system of music and the second line to the second system. Chords are indicated above the treble staff.

**System 1:**

- Chords: Am, D, G, G/B, C
- Lyrics: faith to suit you well; I'll be there in case you  
join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your  
shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as I have

**System 2:**

- Chords: G, A7, D
- Lyrics: wan - der off and find where de - mons dwell.  
vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.  
al - ways been with just one more sur - prise.

The score concludes with a double bar line and a key signature change to F major (two flats) for the final measure.

*Sunday, May 14, 2023*

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Sunday, MAY 21, 2023**  
**11:00 AM**

In accordance with the By-laws of the Congregational Church of Amherst, NH United Church of Christ, the call for the Annual Meeting is hereby made for Sunday morning, May 21, 2023, immediately following worship services.

The meeting will be held in the community room at the church and also via Zoom (details will be emailed and also available on the church website).

Your officers and council members look forward to your attendance and input at this important meeting. Childcare will be provided.



**Our Church Calendar**  
**May 14—20, 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            |
| Monday    | 10:00 a.m. | WA Workshop           |
| Tuesday   | 7:00 p.m.  | Racial Justice Group  |
| Wednesday | 10:00 a.m. | Wednesday AM Adult Ed |
| Thursday  | 6:00 p.m.  | Bell Choir            |
|           | 6:30 p.m.  | Confirmation Class    |
|           | 7:30 p.m.  | Chancel Choir         |