

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



*Hagar thought, "Have I really seen God and lived to tell about it?"
So from then on she called God 'El Roi' –
"The God Who Sees Me."*

– Genesis 16:13

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

June 25, 2023

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m.

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

Diane Bish

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

One: People of faith, we gather to celebrate our God.

Many: Our God who offers so much more than we imagine.

One: Our God who offers hope.

Many: Hope for those who cry out from the wilderness of their lives.

One: Our God who offers grace.

Many: Grace for those rejected, ignored, and cast aside by the world.

One: Our God who offers love.

Many: Love for those who have known days of trouble and nights of loneliness.

One: Our God who calls us to live as people of hope, grace, and love.

Many: Let us worship our Creator God, together!

*HYMN

Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above
verses 1, 2 & 3 only

No. 483

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

The congregation may be seated.

Loving God,
as people of faith,
as members of the worldwide community of humanity –
we gather in this place
to listen, to learn,
to worship, to pray,

to be with you.
Because we know it is through your generosity,
it is out of your love,
it is because of your grace,
that we have life.
May our lives be a reflection of you,
in this hour, and in all the hours that we live.

May we feel your Spirit moving among us now, O God,
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.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

O Rest in the Lord from *Elijah*
Sara Phelps, soprano

Felix Mendelssohn

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 21:8-21

The child grew and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beersheba.

When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is.

Continued next page.

Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink. God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

SERMON "Seen and Heard"

*HYMN *Just as I Am, Without One Plea* No. 370

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 the pastor during the hymn after the sermon, and will be shared during Joys and Concerns.

ORGAN RESPONSE

SHARING OUR OFFERINGS and CELEBRATING OUR WELCOME

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Canticle of Faith* Fenton Groden

*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)

For those who have no family, for those cast out of their homes, for those enduring the heat of hate, for those longing for connection with communities of love and hope, we offer our gifts, Loving God. May we be a source of comfort and peace for those seeking to be seen and heard. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*HYMN *In the Midst of New Dimensions* side page
verses 1, 2 & 3 only

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*ORGAN RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE *Praeludium in F Major, WV 412* Johann Ludwig Krebs

*(*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 on break for the summer, and will resume on Rally Day, September 10, 2023.
- 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 memorial garden for a time of fellowship after the worship service. (In case of rain, we gather in the community room.) Refreshments are offered.
- In the event of an emergency, please remain seated until instructions have been given.

The church office is open Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 to 1:00 p.m., and available Monday through Friday by telephone 673-3231 and 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
 Sara L. Phelps
 Michael Havay
 Mark and Fran Baddeley
 Sue Werst
 Tim Wiegand

Ministers to the World
 Senior Pastor
 Director of Music
 Organist/Accompanist
 Deacons in Charge
 Liturgist
 Videographer

A REMINDER: Next week our worship time moves to 9:00 a.m. for the months of July and August.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS SPEECH EVENT: On Saturday, July 1, CCA's Racial Justice Group is hosting a reading of Douglass' historic protest speech. The reading will take place on the steps of the church opposite the Village Green. Come and listen to part or all of the speech and then join us for refreshments and discussion in the Memorial Garden. The reading will begin at 12:00 noon.

JULY 4 HELP WANTED: The Fellowship Team is looking for volunteers to donate unfrosted cookies, 2 per baggie. We especially need volunteers on July 4, 9:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. to pass out cookies and brochures. Anyone who could assist with face painting and tattoos, especially youth, would be welcome! Please email Carol Landon at carollandon@gmail.com or text or call at 603-494-7734, or Sue Werst at sue.w.0323@gmail.com.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is August 14th-18th! For more information regarding registration, volunteering, or donating with our Amazon Wish List, see the Church School Website: www.ccamherst.org/church-school

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for June include canned fruit, flour, sugar, boxed cake mixes and baking supplies, coffee and tea, juice, 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!

Financial Summary

(as of May 31, 2023)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$405,646	\$390,627	\$15,019
Expenses	\$414,614	\$416,339	\$(1,725)
Net Income	\$ (8,968)	\$ (25,712)	\$16,743

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: Ken Bell, Don Lyon, Paul Spiess (Treasurer), Doug Topliffe, Todd Whitney.

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Portions of today's liturgy have been adapted from lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com