

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



*“When we read the bible, we should read it as an unfolding story. We should resist the urge to edit out the earlier or hard parts or pretend like they’re not there; they reflect how people understood things in that time in that place. The stories keep going, and we should read them in light of where they’re headed.*

*– Rob Bell, What is the Bible?*

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

July 2, 2023

Fifth 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

*If You But Trust in God to Guide You*

David Cherwien

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

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

One: O God, of heaven and earth,  
of all nations and all peoples,

**Many: Reveal yourself  
to all gathered before you today.**

One: Reveal yourself  
to those who are seeking guidance,

**Many: Reveal yourself  
to those who are seeking strength.**

One: Reveal yourself  
to those who are seeking comfort,

**Many: Reveal yourself  
to all who are seeking relief.**

One: Reveal yourself  
to those who are powerful,

**Many: Reveal yourself  
to all who are powerless.**

One: Reveal yourself  
to us, in this hour,

**Many: and in our everyday lives,  
so that this world  
might reflect your unending love.**

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

*The congregation may be seated.*

You have invited us to this place,  
Welcoming God,  
for this is where we gather in your name.  
Here, we learn to trust you,  
    and to faithfully follow where you lead us.  
Here, we learn to listen to you,  
    and hear words of hope, of healing.  
Here, we learn to bring all that we are to you —  
    our pain, our joy, our greatest longings —  
    that we might be made whole.

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Here I Am, Lord*  
Michael Havay, piano

Daniel L. Schutte/  
John Carter

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 22:1-14

After these things God tested Abraham. God said to him, "Abraham!" And Abraham said, "Here I am." God said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then

*Continued next page.*

Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.” Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, “Father!” And Abraham said, “Here I am, my son.” Isaac said, “The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” Abraham said, “God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And Abraham said, “Here I am.” The angel of the Lord said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place “The Lord will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”

SERMON

“A Life Offering”

\*HYMN

*This Is My Song*

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

ORGAN RESPONSE

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*He Leadeth Me! O Blessed Thought!*

William B. Bradbury/  
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)

As we bring our offerings, O God, we commit our lives to serving all your children — to feed the hungry, to liberate the oppressed, to bring justice and mercy to those in need of both, to bring healing, to preach the good news to those who long to hear it. Always giving God, receive our gifts and our renewed commitment to serve you in all ways. Amen.

## THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*We welcome all people to join in receiving this sacrament. Children may participate at the discretion of their parents.*

### CALL TO COMMUNION

One: God be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**Many: We lift them to God.**

One: Let us give thanks to God most high.

**Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

### COMMUNION PRAYER

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### BREAKING OF THE BREAD and POURING OF THE CUP

#### CONSECRATING PRAYER

### SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

*Communion at CCA is open to anyone who would like to partake. When you receive the bread, eat at your own pace, symbolizing our individual relationship with God. When you receive the juice, drink with the whole congregation, symbolizing our communion as the Body of Christ. The bread is gluten, egg, and dairy free and the juice is non-alcoholic, so that there may be no barriers to Christ's table.*

### ORGAN MEDITATION

*Voluntary*

Artemas Nixon Johnson

*Communion*

Jules Cohen

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

We give thanks, loving God, for feeding us at this table. Send us out into the world as conduits of your love — full of courage, compassion and commitment, and eager to be Christ's church in the world. Amen.

\*HYMN

*Take My Life*

No. 391

\*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

\*ORGAN RESPONSE

\*POSTLUDE

*Fanfare Postlude*

Douglas E. Wagner

*(\*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](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  
Michael Havay  
Sally Hooper  
Paul Schellenberg

Ministers to the World  
Senior Pastor  
Organist/Accompanist  
Deacon in Charge and Liturgist  
Videographer

**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](mailto:carollandon@gmail.com) or text or call at 603-494-7734, or Sue Werst at [sue.w0323@gmail.com](mailto:sue.w0323@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](http://www.ccamherst.org/church-school)

**SHARE FOOD PANTRY** requests for July 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!

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

*Portions of today's liturgy have been adapted from [lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com)*

**GARDEN FLOWERS:** Fresh cut garden flowers are lovely for simple altar arrangements during the summer. If you can provide a bouquet of cut flowers, or can simply contribute flowers for a bouquet, please contact Sue Stout or Andrea in the church office to schedule a Sunday. Thank you for sharing your flower gardens!

### 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.*



**American  
Red Cross**

Community of Giving

# Blood Drive

**Wednesday, July 19, 2023  
12:00 noon to 5:00 pm**

**The Congregational Church of Amherst, NH, UCC  
11 Church St. Amherst, NH 03031**

For an appointment, please visit [redcrossblood.org](https://redcrossblood.org)  
Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

[redcrossblood.org](https://redcrossblood.org) | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | Download the Blood Donor App

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*Sunday, July 2, 2023*