

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



*"Beware the barrenness of a busy life."*  
~ Socrates

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

July 9, 2023

Sixth 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

*Let Us With a Gladsome Mind*

Robert J. Powell

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

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

One: Come all who are weary  
Many: **of toiling, of struggling,  
of illness, of division**

One: Come all who are heavy-laden  
Many: **with too much, with too little,  
with anxiety, with anger, with fear**

One: Come all who have hope  
Many: **for liberation, for peace,  
for freedom, for a cure**

One: Come all who are seeking relief  
Many: **for tired bodies,  
for overburdened minds,  
for weary souls**

One: Hear these words of Jesus:  
Many: **"My yoke is easy,  
my burden is light,  
and in me you will find rest."**

### \*HYMN

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

No. 281

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

*The congregation may be seated.*

When all our toiling weighs us down, O God,  
yours is the strength that allows us to carry on.  
When our load is heavy and too much to bear,  
yours is the shoulder we rest our head upon.  
When we're feeling anxious and overwhelmed,  
yours are the arms outstretched to calm us.  
When we've fallen short of expectations,  
yours is the grace that we depend on.  
In this hour of sanctuary and Sabbath,  
we ask that you show us the path to wholeness,  
of body and of spirit,  
the path that leads to you.

May your Spirit move among us now, Oh God,  
in this sanctuary and wherever we may be,  
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.

\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

*Prelude on Psalm 23:2*  
*"By Still Waters He Leads Me"*  
Sue Werst, flute

Charles Callahan

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON      Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23; 3:11-13

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me —and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

God has made everything beautiful in its time. God has also set eternity in the hearts of people, yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and do good while they live. That everyone may eat and drink and find satisfaction in all their toil - this is the gift of God.

SERMON

“God Picks the Winner”

\*HYMN

*O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*

No. 357

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

*The Heavens Declare God's Glory*

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)

God of love, you abide with us; you provide for all our needs and guide us in your ways. Out of gratitude for your care we bring our gifts before you. Use them for your work of your church, that all may feast at the table of abundance, walk without fear, and drink deeply from the cup of compassion. May our gifts reflect our trust in your care. May our offerings show our willingness to love as you love. Amen.

\*HYMN

*I've Got Peace Like a River*

No. 368

\*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

\*ORGAN RESPONSE

\*POSTLUDE

*Centennial Triptych: 3. Rondeau Recessional*

David Lasky

*(\*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.*

### **Our Church Calendar**

**July 9—15, 2023**

Some events take 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	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Memorial Service for Anne Krantz

# 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

Mark Baddeley

Michael Havay

Sally Hooper

Tom Werst

Doug Topliffe

Ministers to the World

Guest Preacher

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Liturgist

Videographer

\*\*\*\*\*

Rev. Maureen R. Prescott

Sara Phelps

Larissa Riley

Senior Pastor

Director of Music

Church School Coordinator

**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!

**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!

**A RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE** will be held in the community room on Wednesday, July 19 from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. For an appointment, please visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org), or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

### 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.*

*Sunday, July 9, 2023*

**"Come to me, all who are weary,  
and I will give you rest."**

