

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



*"In the darkness, when you cannot see the ground under your feet
and when your fingers touch nothing but night, you are not alone.
I will stay with you as moonlight stays on water."*

—Nadia Hashimi, *When the Moon is Low*

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

July 23, 2023

Eighth 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

Meditation: Ave Maria
Natalie Berger, oboe

J.S. Bach and
Charles Gounod

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

One: We worship our God who dwells in our world.

Many: We worship our God who dwells within us.

One: We need not look to the heavens to find God,
our God is found all around us:

**Many: in the beauty of creation,
in the people we encounter,
in the depths of our own hearts.**

One: We need not listen for a distant thunder to find God,
our God is found in the everyday music of life,

**Many: in the voices of children,
in the questions of the curious,
in the rhythm of a heartbeat.**

One: We worship our God who dwells in our world
and dwells within us.

**Many: In this hour, may we open our eyes
to God's presence all around us.**

*HYMN

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

No. 288

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

The congregation may be seated.

Creating God,
we come to know You this morning.
You who loved us before we were born,
You who knows us even better than we know ourselves,
You whose presence never leaves us,
You whose love for us never ceases.
You are our God.
May we know that You are with us,
wherever we may go.
May your Spirit move 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

Concerto in C minor - I. Allegro Moderato
Natalie Berger, oboe

Benedetto Marcello

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 28:10-19a

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

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Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!” And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

SERMON “The House of God”

*HYMN *Sweet Hour of Prayer* side page

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 *We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder* 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)

Wherever people are in need - the broken, the hungry, the hopeless, those seeking justice - you are with them, O God, healing them, feeding them, caring for them, and sustaining them through the gifts that we return to you. Holy One, all that we have comes from you. May our gifts do your work in the world. Amen.

*HYMN *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* No. 417

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*ORGAN RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE *A Mighty Fortress* Martin Luther/
David Cherwien

*(*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

Michael Havay

Sally Hooper

Scott Hewett

Patricia Bodan

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Liturgist

Videographer

Sara Phelps

Larissa Riley

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. ***Don't wait, registration ends July 31!***

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!

GRANT WRITING HELP: We are looking for someone who may be able to help us with the writing process to apply for an energy efficiency grant. Please contact [Tom Werst](#) if you can help.

END OF SUMMER PARTY: Save the date of Sunday, **August 13** and join us for some end of summer fun at the Dart family's lake house on Baboosic Lake in Amherst. The Darts will provide burgers, hot dogs and corn. Please bring a side dish, a salad, or a dessert to share, and your own beverages.

Questions? Contact Meredith Dart (meredith.dart@astellas.com or 603-305-9066).

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

Portions of the liturgy have been adapted from The Presbyterian Church USA website: https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/peacemaking/pdf/mlk-resources.pdf



Help Local Students Get Ready for School

Support SHARE's Back to School Program

Summer is in full swing, but back to school is not far away. Please consider helping local families get their kids ready for school by donating school supplies and backpacks.

Please get items to SHARE by August 4 (that allows time to purchase what they do not have).

Most wanted items include....

- New Backpacks (Prefer large, very sturdy. Even little ones need room for snow pants and sneakers!)
- Lunch Boxes
- Durable, Tear-Resistant 2-Pocket Folders (6 colors)
- 1, 2, and 3-inch Sturdy Binders (White)/Filler Paper/Dividers w/tabs
- Calculators (4 function)
- Notebooks 8 1/2 x 11" (1,3 and 5 subject)
- Pens: Blue, Black, and Red
- Ticonderoga Pencils
- 3- hole Pen/ Pencil Cases & Pouches
- Thin Tip Dry Erase Markers (low odor)
- Post-It Notes
- Highlighters and Black Fine Point Sharpies
- Crayons, Colored Markers and Pencils (Crayola preferred)
- Erasers: Pencil-top and Chunk
- Thick Washable Markers
- Glue Sticks (Jumbo and Lg.)/4oz. Elmers' Glue/Scotch Tape
- Rulers (Custom/Metric)
- Anti-Bacterial and Baby Wipes/Boxes of Tissues
- Hand Held Pencil Sharpeners with covers
- Marbled Composition Notebooks
- Scissors (Kid friendly)
- Index Cards



Donations may be brought to the SHARE Center Monday through Friday from 8 am - 4:30 pm by August 4.