

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



*"You can only be jealous of someone who has something you think
you ought to have yourself."*

— Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale*

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

August 13, 2023

Eleventh 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

Boundless Mercy

Anthony Giamanco

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

One: Here, in this place, God welcomes us all:

Many: **the dreamers and the doubters,
the worriers and the wanderers,
the fearful and the faithful.**

One: Here, in this place, God welcomes all:

Many: **who dare to step out of comfort into the unknown,
who seek courage in the midst of chaos,
who long for hope in times of despair.**

One: Here, in this place, we celebrate:

Many: **all the ways God offers us comfort, courage, and hope.
Here, in this time, we are reminded
that God is with us, always!**

*HYMN

God of Grace and God of Glory
verses 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

No. 420

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

The congregation may be seated.

When we feel compelled
to push everything to its limits,
especially you, Great Creator,
it is enough that your grace
can slow us down.

When we stand exposed
to the buffeting winds
of our doubts and uncertainties,
it is enough, Healing Servant,
that you clothe us in your peace,
and put our minds at ease.

When we are entangled
in a legion of worries and fears
which consume our lives,
it is enough, Spirit of Strength,
that you untie the knots
and set us free.

It is enough,
God in Community,
that you are with us in this very moment,
as we pray as Jesus taught us, saying,

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.

SACRAMENT OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

Mackenzie Aleksandra Marchwicz

Scriptural Setting

Questions of Commitment

Response of Members and Friends (in unison)

We receive Mackenzie as a 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 Certificate

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

All Things Bright and Beautiful
Sara Phelps, soloist

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 37:1-8, 12-28

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. This is the story of the family of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

Once Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. He said to them, "Listen to this dream that I dreamed. There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright; then your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf." His brothers said to him, "Are you indeed to reign over us? Are you indeed to have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more because of his dreams and his words.

Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron. He came to Shechem, and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan.

They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him" —that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

SERMON

"Joseph and His Dream Coat"

*HYMN

I Was There to Hear Your Borne 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 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

Balm in Gilead

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)

Receive these gifts, O God, and with them we offer ourselves and our dreams. Use us and all we have to bring a message of hope to those who cannot imagine a future free from despair, to bring a message of love to those who cannot imagine what it is to feel your embrace, to bring a message of forgiveness to those who cannot imagine grace is meant for them. In the name of the One who is both gift and giver we pray. Amen.

*HYMN

Be Now My Vision

side page

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*ORGAN RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Exultate

Roger C. Wilson/
Carson Cooman

*(*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.*

*Portions of the liturgy have been adapted from
Thom Shuman from Lectionary Liturgies -
<http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>*

Be Now My Vision

Ancient Irish text, c. 8th century; transl. Mary E. Byrne, 1905
Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912; adapt.

Unison

1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;
2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;
3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,
4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—
ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;
you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,
Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,
You and you on - ly are first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.
now and for - ev - er your child I will be.
great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Dating from the eighth century or earlier, this Irish hymn was translated into prose by Mary Byrne. It was then versified by Eleanor Hull, author of several books on Irish literature and history. David Evans arranged the Irish melody for this text in 1927.

Tune: SLANE 10.10.9.10.
Traditional Irish melody
Harm. David Evans, 1927

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

Roger Hooper

Susan Deschenes

Doug Topliffe

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Liturgist

Videographer

WE REJOICE TODAY in the baptism of Mackenzie Aleksandra Marchwicz, daughter of Kathryn and Scott Marchwicz, and granddaughter of Brian Dillon. Mackenzie's godparents are Christopher McCarthy and Tess Karian.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for August include pancake mix and syrup, condiments, cooking sauces and seasonings, cooking oils, jelly, and cold cereal. 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!

NO FALL GOOD STUFF SALE: The Woman's Association will not be holding a Good Stuff Sale this Fall. The next sale will be held on April 26 and 27, 2024. Unfortunately, due to storage limitations, we will not be able to accept any donations for that sale until sometime after the new year. Details about what, when and where to donate items to next spring's Good Stuff Sale will appear in church publications in early 2024.

END OF SUMMER PARTY: Join us this afternoon 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).

Financial Summary

(as of July 31, 2023)

	YTD	YTD	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$93,753	\$97,854	\$(4,101)
Expenses	\$63,085	\$66,013	\$(2,928)
Net Income	\$30,668	\$31,841	\$(1,173)

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, and Todd Whitney.

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

Am D G G/B C

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

G A7 D *to beginning*

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.

Sunday, August 13, 2023

