

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



*"When you dance, your purpose is not to get to a certain place on the floor.
It's to enjoy each step along the way."*

—Wayne Dyer

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

August 20, 2023

Twelfth 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

Galliarda

Iouri Grichetchkine

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

One: How do we worship God?
There are many ways!

**Many: We worship God in prayer,
in presence,
in persistence.**

One: We worship God in scripture,
in song,
in solitude.

**Many: We worship God in movement,
in miracles,
in masterpieces.**

One: We worship God in our words,
in our work,
in our wanderings.

**Many: We worship God in connection,
in Creation,
in community.**

**All: We worship God, together,
right here, right now.**

*HYMN

Praise to the Living God

insert

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

The congregation may be seated.

God of sacred spaces
and simple places,
we worship you wherever we are
in whatever we are doing.
Help us to feel your presence
in this hour we've set aside
to lift up our prayers, to hear your word,
to seek your comfort, to sing your praise,
in this sanctuary, in our homes,
in our wandering.
Hear our voices, receive our offerings,
enter our hearts, as we celebrate the gifts
you have given us in your grace.
Hear us now, as we lift up our voices
using the words that Jesus has 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

Morning Has Broken
Sara Phelps, soloist

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 45:1-15

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do

not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

SERMON

"A Purpose Driven Life"

*HYMN

Comfort, Comfort You My People

No. 3

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 Banyan Tree

Gene Roberson

*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)

Our offerings are a response of gratitude for all that you have given us, O God. May our lives serve as a witness to the importance we place on ministering to one another, hearing and sharing your Word, and reaching out to make a difference in the world. As we have been gifted with your love, help us to carry and communicate that love in our words and actions. May all that we do and say and give serve as worship to you. Amen.

*HYMN

Here I Am, Lord

No. 525

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*ORGAN RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Postlude on "Hyfrydol"
(Love Divine, All Loves Excelling)

Rowland H. Pritchard/
Jason D. Payne

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

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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
Kevin G. S. Marsh
Sara L. Phelps
Michael Havay
Roger Hooper
Stephen Egbertson
Paul Schellenberg

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

TODAY'S OFFERTORY PIECE, *The Banyan Tree*, was written by Gene Roberson, composer, concert pianist and organist, and Director of Music at a Presbyterian church in Southern California. It was composed in response to the wildfires on the island of Maui. The Banyan tree was planted in Lahaina in 1873 and now stands at 60 feet tall with a quarter mile circumference. Damaged by the fires but not destroyed, the tree stands amid the total devastation of the town as a symbol of hope and survival for its people.

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.

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!

Our Church Calendar

August 20—26, 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

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.

Sunday, August 20, 2023

Joseph helps his family.
Genesis 42—45



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