

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



*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can
change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."*

—Margaret Mead

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

August 27, 2023

Thirteenth 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

Prelude on a Czechoslovakian Folk Song

Carlos Staszkeski

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

One: People of God,
we are here this morning to celebrate!

**Many: To celebrate the many ways
our lives are meant to be a reflection of our God.**

One: God calls us to love all people as if
they were our own siblings,

**Many: for God seeks to weave us into one family,
tearing down all the barriers between us.**

One: When we encounter oppression or persecution,
hatefulness or hard-heartedness

**Many: we are called to respond with love
which is sincere, steadfast, and liberating.**

One: No matter how weary we become
from our struggles, our setbacks, our service,

**Many: God challenges us to be patient yet persistent,
and to never cease hoping.**

One: Why should we do all these things?

**Many: Because we are God's people,
called to lives which are different,
and which make a difference in the lives of others!**

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

The congregation may be seated.

God our Creator,
you are alive:
 in the singing of birds at dawn,
 in the leaves gently stirring in the breeze,
 in the stars that dance at night.

Jesus, Brother to us all,
you are here among us:
 in the touch of a grandparent,
 in the cries of a newborn,
 in the stillness after a storm.

Spirit of God,
you make all our places holy:
 the sanctuaries where we gather,
 the common areas where we meet our neighbors,
 the gardens and green spaces where we seek solitude.

God in Community, Holy in One,
make us aware of your presence in every moment,
as we pray as we are taught, 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.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

*Sweet By and By/Shall We Gather at the River/
On Jordan's Stormy Banks*
Michael Havay, pianist

arr. Marcia Wells

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

SERMON

"Let My People Go"

*HYMN

As Pants the Hart for Cooling Streams

insert

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.

*Portions of our liturgy are adapted from Thom M. Shuman
at Lectionary Liturgies at Blogspot.com.*

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

Michael Havay

Roger Hooper

Paul Schellenberg

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Acting Associate Pastor

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Videographer

Sara L. Phelps

Larissa Riley

Director of Music

Church School Coordinator

A REMINDER: Next Sunday our worship service returns to its regular 10:00 a.m. start time.

RALLY DAY IS SEPTEMBER 10! We hope you will be with us as we celebrate the start of our new church program year. Church school resumes and the Chancel Choir will be back singing in worship.

Everyone is invited to **bring your school backpacks or work bags** for a special Back to School blessing offered by our pastors during the service.

After worship, please join us for our annual **all-church picnic**. Our Fellowship Team will be cooking up hamburgers and hot dogs, and we ask that folks who are able to contribute to please bring a side, salad or dessert to share. All ages welcome, and donations to help with costs will be gratefully accepted. This is a wonderful opportunity to renew friendships and make new ones while enjoying good food and fun games.

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.

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 27, 2023

Baby Moses was safe in his basket boat.

