

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



*I met an old woman once, almost a hundred years old, and she told me,
"There are only two questions that human beings have ever fought over,
all through history. 'How much do you love me?' and 'Who's in charge?'"*

—Elizabeth Gilbert, *Eat, Pray, Love*

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

November 26, 2023

Christ the King—Reign of Christ

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING CHIMES

Let us be gathered in silence so that we may prepare to worship.

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

Rejoice, the Lord is King

John Darwall/
Jason D. Payne

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

One: We come to praise God,
our Almighty Creator,
the One who offers us comfort and strength.

Many: Let the faithful shout for joy!

One: We come to praise Jesus,
our voice of truth,
the One who rules our lives with justice and peace.

Many: Let the faithful shout for joy!

One: We come to praise the Spirit,
our breath of life,
the One who inspires and guides us in love.

Many: Let the faithful shout for joy!

One: We come to lift up our voices in gratitude,
to the One who reigns in our hearts and lives.

All: Let the faithful shout for joy!

*HYMN

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!
verses 1, 3 and 4 only

No. 142

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

The congregation may be seated.

God of heaven and earth,
of all nations, people, and ages,
we celebrate this day the Reign of Christ:
child of Mary, servant leader,
witness of truth, and sovereign of our hearts.
Help us renew our commitment and covenant
to be followers and leaders in his name.
Help us live the example of Jesus, the Lord of our lives,
in whose name we worship, serve, and pray:

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.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ANTHEM

Praise to the Lord the Almighty
Chancel Choir

arr. Kevin McChesney

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 25:31-46

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’

Continued next page.

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?'

And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

SERMON

"The Crown"

*HYMN

Now Thank We All Our God

No. 555

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 one of the pastors during the hymn after the sermon, and will be shared during Joys and Concerns.

CHORAL RESPONSE

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

We Gather Together

Edward Kremser/
Robert Lau

*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)

In gratitude, we offer a portion of what you have given to us, Gracious God. We do so trusting that you will take these gifts, multiplying them in your kingdom, so all might be fed, clothed, welcomed, and cared for in your name. Make us conduits of your love, your peace, and your hope. Amen.

*HYMN

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

No. 145

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

One: Let us go now in peace...

Left: May God bless you and keep you,

Right: May God's light and grace shine upon you.

Left: May your heart be open to the blessings that surround you;

Right: May these blessings produce a harvest of generosity in your spirit.

Left: May thankfulness rise up within you,

Right: Not just during this season, but in every season.

Left: May your prayers reflect gratitude,

Right: And inspire you to meet the needs of others.

**All: May the gift of life and Creation fill our hearts and minds,
and may thanksgiving be our response. Amen.**

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Postlude on "Halifax"

G.F. Handel/
Lani Smith

*(*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.*

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 available for children Pre-K through grade 7.
- Our church nursery is staffed and available for parents with young children.
- 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 community room for a time of fellowship after the worship service. Coffee and beverages are offered.
- In the event of an emergency, please remain seated until instructions have been given. An emergency plan is in place for the children in the church school.

The church office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 to 1:00 p.m., and available Monday through Friday by telephone 673-3231 and by 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
Gail Wiegand
Bruce Kinney
Regina Kinney, Sue Spiess
Andrea Cyr

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

LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley
Sue Werst
Dave Hagerstrom
Lyndsay Curtis

Church School Coordinator
Teacher, Preschool to Elementary
Teacher, Grades 5 to 7
Nursery Attendant

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA FOOD

DONATIONS: We are excited for our annual "Breakfast With Santa" event. As in the past, we rely on our church family for food donations to make this event a success. Please choose the donation that work best for you, and please deliver all items to the church on Saturday, December 2 between 8:00-8:30 a.m. If you need to make other arrangements please contact [Vicky Leknes](#). *Thank you for your generosity!*

A CLASSIC ORNAMENT RETURNS! This ornament, featuring the Brick School, our Church Steeple, and the Amherst Town Library, is bound to become one of your Christmas treasures. First offered 15 years ago by the Christmas in Amherst Village team, this classic is available this season for \$20. Ornaments can be purchased in the community room after worship starting today, on Sundays in November and December, or by stopping by the church office during office hours (Mon., Wed., Fri. 10-3). All proceeds benefit our church!

Financial Summary

(as of October 31, 2023)

	YTD	YTD	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$178,298	\$184,943	\$ (6,645)
Expenses	\$162,991	\$173,298	\$(10,307)
Net Income	\$ 15,307	\$ 11,645	\$ 3,663

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 (Chair).

HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER: Kick off your holidays with fun, food, and festive company! **HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS** is a unique event at one of Amherst's historic houses, Journey Cake Farm (226 Route 101), decorated for the season. On Sunday, Dec. 17, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., enjoy hot and cold hors d'oeuvres catered by *Celebrations* of Nashua, music by two local pianists, and a scavenger hunt within the sprawling 1841 home. There will be a cash bar and a 50/50 raffle. Reservations are \$75/pp and must be made at <https://www.ccamherst.org/holidays>.

The venue is graciously provided by Laura and Bill Ferry and **all proceeds benefit our church**. We expect this event to sell out quickly; reservations are limited to 60 guests, so sign up today!

Please note there is **NO PARKING** ONSITE. All attendees must take the complimentary shuttle to the venue from the Meeting House Plaza, 199 Route 101, Amherst.

Our Church Calendar

November 26—December 2, 2023

Some events are taking 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	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:15 a.m.	Fellowship
Monday	7:00 p.m.	World Service
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Breakfast with Santa



Celebrate the Season of Giving

The Christmas season is just around the corner and the World Service team is again partnering with two organizations to help ensure that all in our community experience the joy of the holidays. As you can see below, there is a way for everyone to participate, and a wide variety of those to support.

We will again be signing up online, using SignUp Genius. There will still be a "Giving Tree" at the church, but this year, the stars will have instructions on how to use the signup tool.

Important Dates:

- Nov. 19 – Dec. 9: Dates to sign up for gifts – information will be sent out by email.
- Nov. 19, 26, Dec. 3: Members of World Service Team available to help, after in-person worship.
- Dec. 10: Deadline to drop off gifts to church.

Crestwood Nursing Home: We will continue our annual tradition of purchasing gifts for each resident from their specific wish lists. You will be able to view the wish lists and choose a resident that speaks to your heart. Crestwood gifts should be returned unwrapped in a gift bag, with the name of the resident clearly visible on the bag, and gift wrap included.

Family Promise of Southern NH (formerly Anne-Marie House): They have moved to a larger facility and are now housing approximately 40 children and their families. Each child has at least one special item on their Christmas list. Family Promise gifts should be wrapped and returned with a tag with the name/age of the child. Santa, Mrs. Claus, and members of the World Service team will deliver these gifts in person on December 18.

All gifts are due back to the church no later than end of worship Sunday, Dec 10.

For more information please visit our [2023 Christmas Gift Drives Website](https://www.ccamherst.org/holidays)

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Gather at Journey Cake Farm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH

3:00-6:00 PM

KICK-OFF YOUR HOLIDAYS

WITH FUN, FOOD, AND FESTIVE COMPANY!

Enjoy a unique event at one of Amherst's historic houses, decorated for the season.

- Savor hot and cold hors d'oeuvres catered by *Celebrations of Nashua*
- Enjoy music by two local pianists
- Join in a scavenger hunt within the sprawling 1841 home
- Cash bar and a 50/50 raffle

RESERVATIONS \$75/PP AT

[HTTPS://WWW.CCAMHERST.ORG/HOLIDAYS](https://www.ccamherst.org/holidays)



more info



JOURNEY CAKE FARM

226 STATE ROUTE 101, AMHERST, NH

All proceeds benefit

The Congregational Church of Amherst,
NH UCC

VENUE GRACIOUSLY PROVIDED BY LAURA AND BILL FERRY



**CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF AMHERST**
United Church of Christ

SUNDAY

December 10, 2023

4:00 pm

11 Church Street, Amherst NH

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

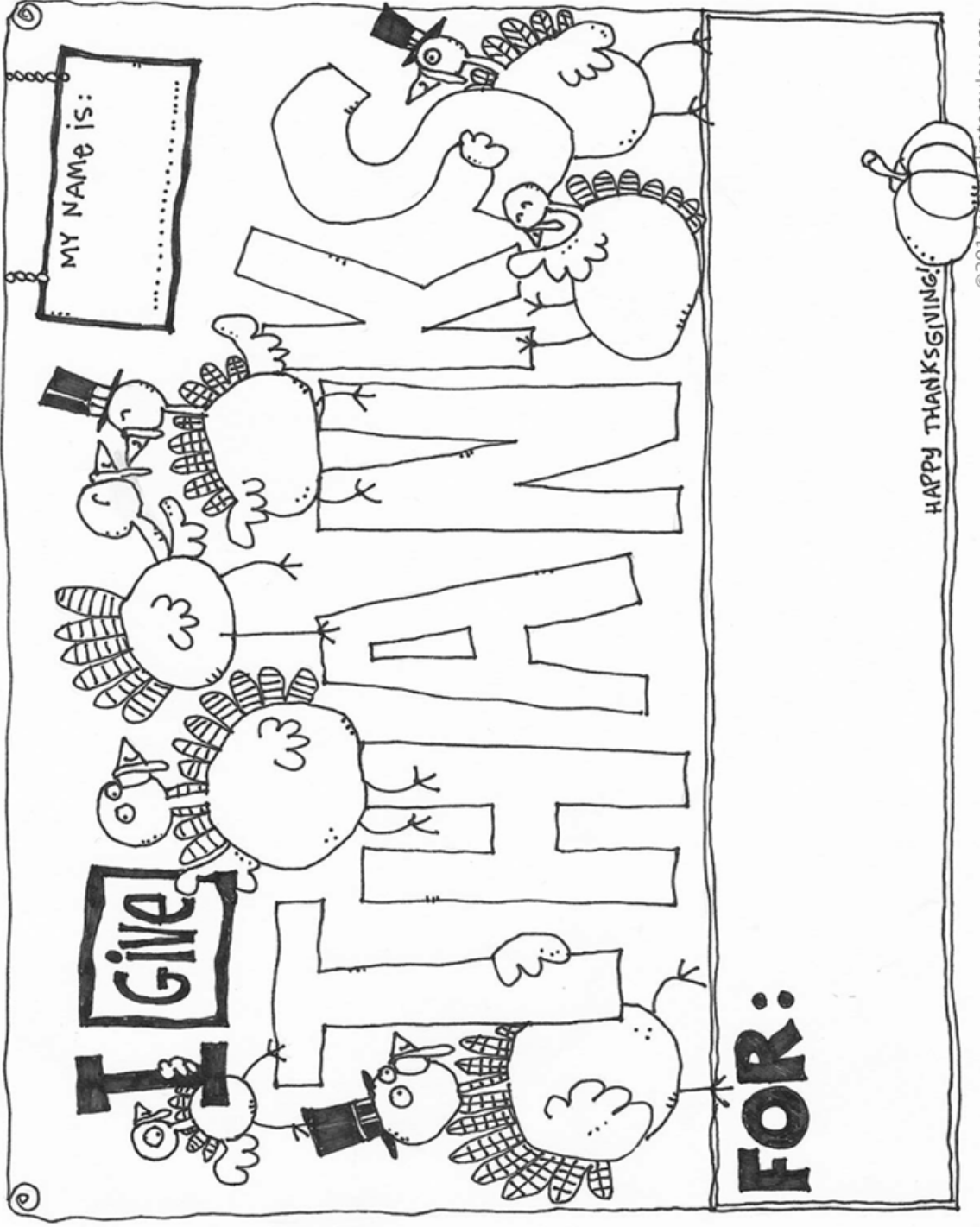
SARA PHELPS, MUSIC DIRECTOR
CHANCEL CHOIR
HANDBELL CHOIR
MICHAEL HAVAY, ORGAN/PIANO
SUE WERST, FLUTE/PICCOLO

Enjoy beautiful sacred choral and handbell selections, along with much-loved popular favorites of the season. Everyone gets to participate in the merry singalong songs!

Family Christmas Concert



Give Thanks to God



Sunday, November 26, 2023