

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



“Not all those who wander are lost.”

—J.R.R. Tolkien

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

*"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here."*

January 14, 2024

Epiphany Sunday

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

The Golden Carol

Robert J. Powell

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

One: Arise! Shine!

Many: For the Glory of God shines around us!

One: Arise! Shine!

Many: For the inbreaking of God has come at last!

One: Arise! Shine!

Many: For we come from all directions seeking the Christ.

One: Arise! Shine! For the Light of God will lead our journeys!

Many: Come, let us adore Christ!

*HYMN

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

No. 68

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

The congregation may be seated.

God with us, we come together this morning to seek your presence. Here we offer you our journeys, laying before you the good, the bad, and the ugly of our lives. We lift up our whole selves to you so that we may be replenished, healed, made whole, and comforted. Keep us in your light that casts out all darkness, as we pray with the words you 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.

*SONG OF PRAISE

Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Rev. Shayna Appel

ANTHEM

One Star
Chancel Choir

Ed Harris

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

SERMON

"Following Your Star"

*HYMN

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

No. 69

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

SHARING OUR OFFERINGS and RECEIVING OUR STAR GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

What Strangers Are These?

Alexandre Guilmant/
Michael Ryan

*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)

Generous God, we bring our gifts as an act of awe and wonder, knowing that you multiply every effort. We share the joy of the magi, for we too have seen the star and know the joy of giving. We praise you with our gifts and with our lives, that the great riches of Christ might be opened for all to experience. Amen.

*HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
verses 1, 2 and 4 only

No. 376

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Trumpet Voluntary

Gordon Young

*(*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 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
 Rev. Shayna Appel
 Sara L. Phelps
 Michael Havay
 Mark and Fran Baddeley
 Doug Topliffe

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

LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley
 Sue Werst
 Dave Hagerstrom
 Gretchen Davis

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

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are from the Deysher Family, in loving memory of Fay Deysher whose memorial service was held yesterday in our sanctuary.

THE YOUTH CHOIR meets today in the vestry after worship—come have some fun and sing with us!

WEDNESDAY MORNING ADULT ED RESUMES on January 17 with *Understanding the New Testament*. Why do we have four Gospels? Why do they contradict each other at times? What is the Book of Revelation really about? This winter we're continuing our year-long look at the New Testament through this video lecture series produced by the Great Courses. We'll watch the video together as a group and then have a discussion facilitated by Pastor Maureen. All are welcome, we meet on Zoom the first and third Wednesdays of the month. More information can be found on our website and in the January *Spire*.

SCOUTS—SAVE THE DATE! This year we are celebrating Scout Sunday on February 4. All scouts are invited to wear their uniforms.

Financial Summary

(as of November 30, 2023)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$218,660	\$214,413	\$ 4,247
Expenses	\$196,094	\$207,713	\$(11,619)
Net Income	\$ 22,567	\$ 6,700	\$ 15,867

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.

BEWARE OF FALLING SNOW AND ICE:
During the winter months, we want to remind everyone that snow and ice may fall from our roof at any time. Please use caution when in our driveway, and do not walk too close to the building.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for January include toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorants, shampoo and conditioner, bar soap, feminine hygiene products, diapers and wipes. 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!

DONATED ALTAR FLOWERS WELCOME:
Flowers can be given to remember a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion. The donor arranges with a local florist to have their chosen flowers delivered, or can create their own arrangement and bring it on Sunday. After the service they may take the flowers home or donate them to someone in need of some cheer. There are many openings in the coming months. Contact Sue Stout, or Andrea in the church office, to schedule a Sunday.

Our Church Calendar

January 14—20, 2024

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
	11:15 a.m.	Youth Choir
	11:30 a.m.	Racial Justice Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Wednesday AM Adult Ed
	4:00 p.m.	Stewardship
	6:00 p.m.	Budget & Finance Team
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir

Sunday, January 14, 2024