

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



*“Love implies anger.
The man who is angered by nothing cares about nothing.”*

—Edward Abbey

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."*

March 3, 2024

Third Sunday in Lent

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

Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine

Dale Wood

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

One: Beloved, we come to praise the mighty deeds of God,

Many: We come to offer praise for God's Righteousness.

One: We praise the God who unconditionally loves us,
who seeks relationship with each of us, and tenderly holds us in comfort.

**Many: We praise the God who teaches us the ways of justice and mercy,
who calls us to the margins, who washes the feet of the oppressed,
and asks us to join in.**

One: We praise the God who is always present,
who never leaves us or abandons us in times of joy and crisis.

**Many: We praise God for the Holy Spirit that moves in our midst this morning,
revealing truth, and nudging our hearts with God's righteousness.**

All: Let us praise God together, now and forever! Amen.

*HYMN

God Is Here!

No. 461

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE (in unison)

The congregation may be seated.

Left (Pulpit side): Jesus, cleanser of temples and souls, look deep within our hearts and lives.

Right (Lectern side): Show us the ways that we have failed to live according to your way.

Left: We confess that we have failed to show kindness, goodness and love to those around us.

Right: We have been hard hearted, cold, callous, and mean to those who needed love and kindness.

Left: We confess that we have been indifferent in the face of injustice and oppression.

Right: We have averted our eyes and failed to pay attention to those who are hurting in our world.

Left: God of Righteousness, creator, savior, and sustainer,

Right: We confess that we have at times forgotten you.

Left: But we thank you that you never forget us!

Right: You are a God of forgiveness and ever flowing mercy!

**All: You have forgiven us of all our failing and falters,
and you will continue to forgive us as we stumble on our journeys.**

*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 CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ANTHEM

Lamb of God, What Wondrous Love
Chancel Choir

Faure/Petker

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 2:13-17

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured

Continued next page.

out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

SERMON

"The Anger of Jesus"

*HYMN

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

No. 316

JOYS AND CONCERNS, PASTORAL PRAYER and THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

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.

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.

CHORAL RESPONSE

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*Westminster Abbey
(Christ is Made the Sure Foundation)*

Richard Proulx

*DOXOLOGY (Tune: OLD HUNDREDETH, No. 592)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Righteous God, your holy light shines breaking through the chaos of our lives. We offer up these, our gifts and offerings, as an act of participation with your mission in the world. Take what we have given and use it to multiply your love, goodness, and justice in our communities and around the world. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We welcome all people to join in receiving this sacrament. Children may participate at the discretion of their parents.

CALL TO COMMUNION

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God most high.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

COMMUNION PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BREAKING OF THE BREAD and POURING OF THE CUP

CONSECRATING PRAYER

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

Communion at CCA is open to anyone who would like to partake. When you receive the bread, eat at your own pace, symbolizing our individual relationship with God. When you receive the juice, drink with the whole congregation, symbolizing our communion as the Body of Christ. The bread is gluten, egg, and dairy free and the juice is non-alcoholic, so that there may be no barriers to Christ's table.

ORGAN MEDITATION

Bread of the World in Mercy Broken

Gilbert M. Martin

Living Bread

Henry Baker/
Richard A. Williamson

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison)

We give thanks, loving God, for feeding us at this table. Send us out into the world as your children, full of courage, compassion, and commitment, and eager to be Christ's church in the world. Amen.

*HYMN

Blessed Assurance

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*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Sortie

George Blake

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

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
 Kevin G. S. Marsh
 Rev. Shayna Appel
 Sara L. Phelps
 Michael Havay
 John Swanson
 Doug Topliffe

Ministers to the World
 Acting Associate Pastor
 Guest Pastor
 Director of Music
 Organist/Accompanist
 Deacon 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

GOOD STUFF SALE DONATIONS: It's time to spring clean your home and collect good stuff for the Woman's Associations' Annual Good Stuff Sale, which will be held Friday, April 26, 4:00—7:00 p.m., and Saturday, April 27, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. It would be helpful to have all clothing cleaned, sorted, bagged and possibly labeled for men, women, children and infants. We are collecting fine jewelry, costume and fun jewelry, good purses, backpacks, shoes, boots etc.; all accessories too. Household items: linens, sheets, towels, bedspreads, curtains, drapes, home decorative items, kitchen pots and pans, utensils, dishes, glassware, small appliances that work, small furniture, lamps, toys, games, puzzles, CDs, DVDs, books etc. You may leave bagged linens and clothing behind the curtain on the stage in the community room. Housewares, toys, glass, pots and pans etc. may be left in the vestry by the partition that says "Rummage Here." Please do NOT donate bicycles, large sports equipment, big furniture, computers, TVs, textbooks, car seats or baby furniture. All proceeds go to our charities and other needs within our church. Thank you so much! If you have any questions please contact Sally Bowkett, 603-673-7409 or Alicia Wight 603-345-0155.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-731944.

Financial Summary (as of January 31, 2024)

	YTD	YTD	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$280,781	\$282,003	\$(1,223)
Expenses	\$270,232	\$279,808	\$(9,576)
Net Income	\$ 10,549	\$ 2,196	\$ 8,354

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.

Join Us for a Second Hour Presentation on Caregiving



Sunday, March 10, 2024, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

“Honor your gifts.” 1 Timothy 4:14

The Congregational Care Team will be holding an informational event on Caregiving. If you are providing caregiving to a family member, an adult child, in your home or living away or long distance, or perhaps a neighbor, being a caregiver brings many emotional, physical, and financial tolls on the most loving person. We will discuss support, coping, advocacy, and resources, locally and websites all related to caregiving.

The Rev. Charlotte Bell, MDIV, MSW is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ and a member of CCA. She has spent over 25 years as a medical social worker, specializing in end-of-life support, bereavement, grief, geriatrics, oncology, and perinatal loss. Charlotte worked as a clinical social worker with a focus on gerontology, having worked in a variety of senior residential settings. She is trained and certified to support Alzheimer’s patient’s families, and caregivers. She facilitates a monthly Caregivers Support Group for Woodfords Congregational Church, UCC in Portland, ME.

Join us after worship and fellowship; get that extra cup of coffee and meet up in the parlor on the second floor opposite the church office at 11:30 am. If there are more people than chairs we will move to the sanctuary and meet informally there. Resources will be available for you to take.

Lenten Series

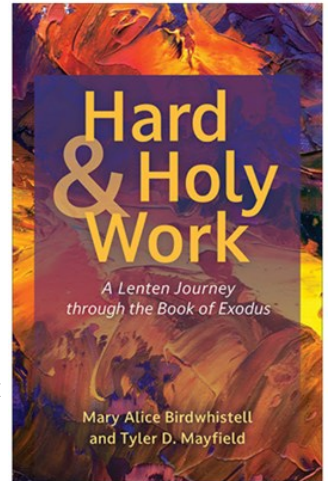
Wednesday Evenings on ZOOM

February 21 and 28

March 6, 13, 20, 27

6:30-8:00 p.m.

On six Wednesday evenings during Lent, we'll gather on Zoom to explore a wonderful and unique guide for our Lenten journey: ***Hard and Holy Work***, by Mary Alice Birdwhistell and Tyler D. Mayfield. While the "work" of Lent often has us looking inward, to enact change in our hearts, this book also encourages us to look outward, to enact change in our world.



Framed as a journey through the book of Exodus and the story of the Hebrew people wandering in the wilderness, the authors encourage us to reflect on our own wilderness moments and our search for God in the troubling times of our lives and our everyday joys and uncertainties. At the same time, we're encouraged to pay attention to the stories and needs of the people whose journeys are much different than our own – the marginalized, the oppressed, the underserved and overlooked; the people Jesus calls us to walk alongside and serve in his name.

The book is available for order online and we'll have copies in the church office for purchase for \$15. The book takes us from Ash Wednesday to Holy Week and offers opportunities for reflection, discussion, and action, depending on what you're seeking from your Lenten journey. If you don't have the time or space to add a weekly reading to your plate join us anyway! We'll pull out passages to seed our discussion, and there's a weekly video to guide us as well. All are welcome to participate! RSVP to pastormaureen@ccamherst.org to receive the Zoom link, or find it on our church website in the Member's Section.

Sunday, March 3, 2024

