

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



*"You shall take the fruit of majestic trees, branches of palm trees,  
boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook;  
and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God."*

- Leviticus 23:40

# 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 24, 2024

Palm/Passion 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

*Behold the King*

David Paxton

INTROIT

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

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

One: We gather together...

**Many: Waving palms of joy, waving branches of peace.**

One: Eager to see Jesus, anxious for his healing touch, hoping to receive a blessing,  
we gather together...

**Many: Waving palms of joy, waving branches of peace.**

One: Longing for a savior, longing for justice, longing to belong,  
we gather together...

**Many: Waving palms of joy, waving branches of peace.**

One: Ready ourselves for what is to come:

**Many: the night of anguish, the hours of darkness, the hope of dawn.**

One: We gather together.

**Many: Waving palms of joy, waving branches of peace, walking towards Easter.**

\*HYMN

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

No. 88

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)  
*The congregation may be seated.*

**With great joy we welcome you, O God,  
through Jesus' triumphant entry,  
singing "Hosanna!" and waving palms.  
You come into our lives, offering us hope and mercy.  
You urge us to seek wisdom and healing.  
You patiently encourage us to grow and to serve.  
Open our hearts this day to the meaning of your words,  
and the power of your story, as told in the Gospels.  
Today we sing: "Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord."  
Fill us with the spirit of worship as we 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.**

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE  
The peace of God be with you. **AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC *The Palms* Jean-Baptiste Fauré

\*DOXOLOGY (*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* Tune: Ellacombe)  
**Hosanna in the highest! That ancient song is ours.  
We hail our great Redeemer and sing with all our powers:  
Hosanna, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.  
Hosanna! In your presence forever we'll rejoice!**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)  
**Generous God, take this offering that we give today, and let it be a prayer of hope. Hope that  
the world can change, that what is wrong can be made right, that resurrection is just around  
the corner. Take this offering and use it to fulfill not our will, but yours. Amen.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER  
*If you have a prayer to share, fill out a prayer card in your pew and place it in the offertory plate.  
Cards will be shared during Joys and Concerns.*

CHORAL RESPONSE

## INTRODUCTION TO THE PASSION NARRATIVE

### THE PASSION ACCORDING TO THE GOSPELS

#### SCRIPTURE LESSON

The Passover Meal

Matthew 26:20-25

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, 'Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.' And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, 'Surely not I, Lord?' He answered, 'The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.' Judas, who betrayed him, said, 'Surely not I, Rabbi?' He replied, 'You have said so.'

#### SCRIPTURE LESSON

The Flock will Scatter

Mark 27:27-31

Then Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." Peter said to him, "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you." Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." Peter said to him, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And so said all the disciples.

#### ANTHEM

*O Sacred Head*  
Chancel Choir

Mary McDonald

#### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Praying in the Garden

Luke 22:39-42, 45-46

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, 'Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.' Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, 'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.' When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, 'Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.'

#### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Judas Betrays Jesus

Mark 15:43-50

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled." All of them deserted him and fled.

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

*Lead Me to Calvary*

William J. Kirkpatrick/  
Ovid Young

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Peter Denies Jesus

Matthew 26:57, 69-75

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, 'You also were with Jesus the Galilean.' But he denied it before all of them, saying, 'I do not know what you are talking about.' When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, 'This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.' Again he denied it with an oath, 'I do not know the man.' After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, 'Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.' Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, 'I do not know the man!' At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: 'Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Holy One, our Creator and our Redeemer,

**Many: When Jesus asks us  
to love our neighbors,  
to forgive our persecutors,  
to welcome strangers,  
to protect children,  
to turn over tables of injustice,  
we deny that we know him, and walk away.**

One: In so many ways, on so many days,

**Many: we are closer to Judas and Peter than we are to Jesus.**

One: When we are stressed, we try to take control.

**Many: When we are afraid, we try to fight or hide.**

One: When it's time to trust you, we find good reasons to betray you.

**Many: When it's time to follow you, we find good reasons to deny you.**

**Many: Forgive us, O God. Forgive us for our failings, and give us courage and hope.  
Remind us that just like you loved Judas and Peter, you love us, shortcomings and  
all. Strengthen us as we walk with you to the cross, through the night, and into the  
dawning resurrection that you promise us. In the light we are forgiven. Amen.**

CHORAL RESPONSE

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, 'You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.'

Then they all shouted out together, 'Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!' (This was a man who had been put in prison for insurrection and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting, 'Crucify, crucify him!' A third time he said to them, 'Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death.' But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!'

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, 'Certainly this man was innocent.'

\*HYMN

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

No. 85

\*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*Little Prelude in E minor*

attrib. J. S. Bach

(\*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](mailto: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](http://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  
Patricia Bodan

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

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## LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley  
Kelly Isaacs  
Dave Hagerstrom  
Lyndsay Curtis

Church School Coordinator; Teacher, Elementary  
Teacher, Preschool—Kindergarten  
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. We are also collecting jewelry, good purses, shoes, and all accessories too. Household items such as linens, towels, bedspreads, curtains, home decorative items, kitchen items and utensils, dishes, glassware, small appliances that work, small furniture, lamps, toys, games, puzzles, CDs, DVDs, books etc. Please do NOT donate bicycles, large sports equipment, big furniture, computers, TVs, textbooks, car seats or baby furniture. If you have any questions please contact Sally Bowkett, 603-673-7409 or Alicia Wight 603-345-0155.

**SCUBA Vacation Bible School 2024** will be held August 12-16 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Registration is now open for children and/or youth volunteers at [www.ccamherst.org/church-school](http://www.ccamherst.org/church-school). Contact Larissa Riley or Gretchen Davis with any questions.

## Our Church Calendar

**March 24—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
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
	7:00 p.m.	World Service
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Deacon's Rehearsal
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Lenten Study Series
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Service

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

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# HOLY WEEK SERVICES

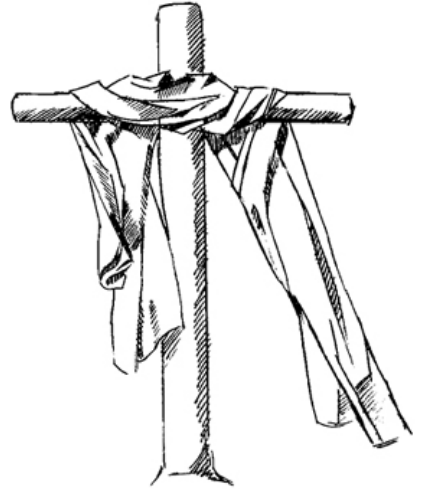


**Palm/Passion Sunday, March 24—10:00 a.m.**

We begin with the traditional waving of the palms and end with an interactive presentation of the Passion Story.

**Maundy Thursday, March 28—7:00 p.m.**

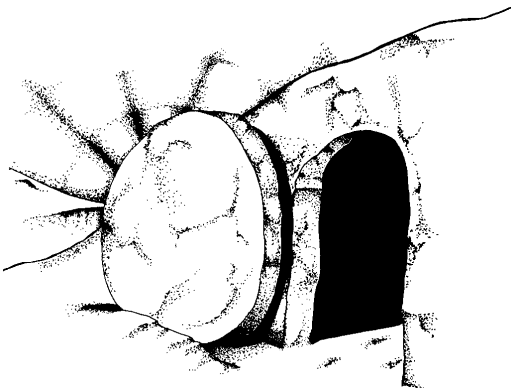
A prayerful reflective service with Communion and Tenebrae – a commemoration of Jesus' last night with his disciples.



**Easter Sunday, March 31**

**7:00 a.m.** Sunrise Service on the Amherst village green. Celebrate the Resurrection at daybreak, followed by coffee and donuts on the green.

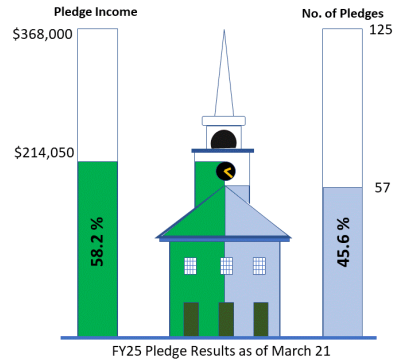
**10:00 a.m.** Easter celebration service in our sanctuary with our Chancel and Bell Choirs. Join us as we praise God with a joyful noise!



All services will be in-person and available to watch online (except for the Easter Sunrise Service).

# Updated Results of Our Faith Promise Stewardship Campaign

Our 2024-2025 fiscal year **Stewardship Campaign** is underway. Thank you to all that have responded so far. To those who are still considering your pledge, you can email your intents to Andrea at [andrea@ccamherst.org](mailto:andrea@ccamherst.org), mail in your pledge intentions, call Andrea (673-3231) or go to the church website <https://www.ccamherst.org/stewardship-pledge/>.



*Patricia Ansdell  
 Mark & Fran Baddeley  
 Ken & Charlotte Bell  
 Steve & Deb Boczenowski  
 Jack & Patricia Buben  
 Camille Davis  
 Tyler & Gretchen Davis  
 Russell & Sandra Demarest  
 Eric Doberstein &  
 Robin Clark  
 Susan Deschenes &  
 Fred Dyke  
 Cynthia Dokmo  
 Judi Dunbar  
 Joan Egbertson  
 Stephen Egbertson  
 Matthew & Stephanie  
 Emmons  
 Judy Ferraro  
 Alvin & Heidi Fortune  
 Maureen Frescott  
 Andre & Nancy Gagnon*

*Sheryl Gottwald  
 Nathan & Jessica Greer  
 John & Linda Herrin  
 Scott & Sally Hewett  
 Roger & Sally Hooper  
 Jana Howe  
 Mary Howe  
 Kelly & Stephen Isaacs  
 Bruce & Regina Kinney  
 Wilene Knight  
 Linda Lannin  
 Arthur & Victoria Leknes  
 Donald & Carol Lyon  
 Joan Lyons  
 Heather MacDonald &  
 William Dallas  
 Elizabeth MacMillan &  
 Hamilton Stewart  
 Bruce & Susan Manchester  
 Ingrid Michaelis  
 Howell Mitchell  
 Avis Moller*

*Mary Moore  
 David & Sara Phelps  
 David & Joan Poltack  
 Nancy & Daniel Protzmann  
 Craig & Katherine  
 Richardson  
 Vic & Carolin Sanchez  
 Paul & Maggie Schellenberg  
 Beth Secor  
 Richard & Kathleen Steeves  
 Sean & Ann Stevenson  
 Richard & Susan Stout  
 John & Anita Swanson  
 Douglas & Adrienne Topliffe  
 Sally & Michael Varanka  
 Charles & Rolinda Vars  
 Thomas & Susan Werst  
 Todd & Jennifer Whitney  
 Tim & Gail Wiegand  
 Alicia Wight  
 Ken & Barbara Wolfe*



*Sunday, March 24, 2024*