



easter
SUNDAY

Christ Is Risen!

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 31, 2024

Easter 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

Christ the Lord is Risen Today
Bell Choir

arr. C. Dobrinski

EASTER PROCLAMATION

One: Rejoice in the good news! Christ is risen!

Many: Christ is risen indeed!

One: Death has been conquered, love has won!

Many: Christ is risen indeed!

One: Let all the earth proclaim this joy!

Many: Christ is risen indeed!

All: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

One: This is the day:

**Many: when tears are wiped away;
shattered hearts are mended;
fear is replaced with joy...**

One: This is the day the Lord:
**Many: rolls away the stone of despair;
throws off death's clothes;
goes ahead of us into God's future...**

One: This is the day the Lord has made:

Many: let us rejoice and be glad in it!

One: This is the day - Easter Day!

Many: Christ is Risen! Hallelujah!

*HYMN

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

No. 123

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

The congregation may be seated.

**Living God, long ago,
faithful followers of Jesus
proclaimed the good news of the Resurrection,
and the world was changed forever.
Teach us to keep faith with them,
that our witness may be as bold,
our love as deep,
and our faith as true.
Help us to be an Easter people.
Believing that out of despair will come hope,
out of darkness will come light,
out of sadness will come joy,
and out of death, new life will rise.
May we feel your Spirit moving among us now,
O God, as we pray the words of Jesus:**

**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 (tune: LLANFAIR)

Christ appears in full array, Alleluia!

Sing with joy this Paschal day, Alleluia!

Christ now from the dead is raised, Alleluia!

Holy Trinity be praised, Alleluia!

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates (from Messiah)
Chancel Choir

G.F. Handel

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.

As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

SERMON

"Who Will Roll Away the Stone?"

*HYMN

Thine Is the Glory

No. 122

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

The Strife is O'er

Hal H. Hopson

*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 and surprising God, when we thought that death had claimed your only Son, you amazed us with the resurrection. Surprise us again with your ability to turn these humble offerings into gifts that will transform the world through our witness to your love. We lay our very lives at your feet, O God, knowing that you will use us to proclaim and embody the gospel. Amen.

*HYMN

Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

No. 104

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

*Festive Postlude on "Llanfair"
(Jesus Christ is Risen Today)*

Robert Williams/
Mary McDonald

*(*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 on break for Easter Sunday. We’ll resume next Sunday.
- Our church nursery is open, but not staffed today, and is available when parents with young children feel the need for a quiet, safe space to go 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 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.

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
John Swanson
Doug Topliffe

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

FAITH PROMISE: Our 2024-2025 fiscal year **Stewardship Campaign** is underway. As of Thursday, March 28, we have received pledges from 70 families, totaling \$248,674. 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, mail in your pledge intentions, call Andrea (673-3231) or go to the church website <https://www.ccamherst.org/stewardship-pledge/>

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.

ANNUAL REPORTS: A reminder that annual reports are due in to the church office by April 15.

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. Contact Larissa Riley or Gretchen Davis with any questions.

Our Church Calendar

March 31—April 6, 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	7:00 a.m.	Easter Sunrise Service
	10:00 a.m.	Easter Worship Service
	11:15 a.m.	Fellowship
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Tuesday	1:30 p.m.	Small Group Ministry
	4:30 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday Adult Ed
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir

Sunday, March 31, 2024 – Easter

Jesus is Alive!

