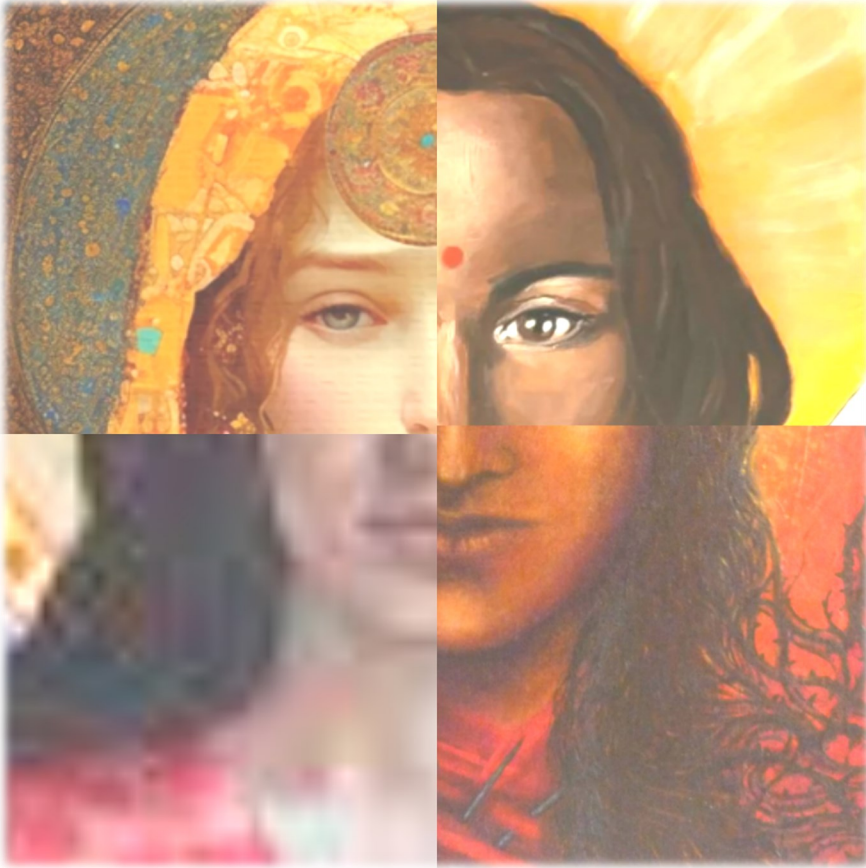


The Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Amherst, New Hampshire



Mary Magdalene

“The word magdala in Aramaic means “tower.” It’s not a place. It’s a title. What kind of Christianity would we have if the faith hadn’t only been based upon, “Peter, you are the Rock and upon this Rock I will build my church?” But what if we’d always known, “Mary, you are the Tower, and by this Tower we shall all stand?”

- Diane Butler Bass, Christian Historian

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."*

April 21, 2024

Creative Worship

10:00 a.m.

"Mary Magdalene"

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

Duke Street (I Know That My Redeemer Lives)

Wilbur Held

INTROIT

*GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

One: Just as Mary came to the tomb on Easter morning, expecting to find Jesus...

Many: We come here today longing to find Jesus in this space.

One: Just as Mary discovered that Jesus was not held by the tomb...

Many: We too discover that Jesus is not held by the walls around us.

One: Just as Mary experienced grief, joy, sorrow and surprise, in that moment...

Many: We too bring a multitude of emotions into this moment.

One: Just as Mary carried the Good News of Easter into the world...

Many: We too carry the hope and promise of life made new.

One: Just as Mary followed Jesus, with all her heart and soul...

Many: We too seek to follow him, with all our heart and soul.

One: Let us worship the God, who comes to us in Jesus...

Many: Let us walk in the footsteps of Mary, as fellow disciples of Christ!

WELCOMING GOD'S PRESENCE (unison)

The congregation may be seated.

God of life-giving stories,

Mary's story has much to teach us.

**She followed Jesus with the spontaneity and passion
of a friend and companion who loved him deeply.**

**She grieved openly when she thought she had lost him,
and she could not contain her joy when he called her by name.**

Still Speaking God,

**help us to discover the presence of Jesus
in the world around us, in the people around us
and may they in turn see that Jesus lives in us.**

Amen!

MOMENTS of MARY in SCRIPTURE

Luke 8:1-3

Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means,

Luke 7:36-50

A woman of the city, who was a sinner, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee saw it, he said, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him." Jesus said to him, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water. You gave me no kiss. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has. Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Matthew 26:6-13

Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, "Why this waste? For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum, and the money given to the poor." But Jesus said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

Mark 15:37-47

Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. There were women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James saw where the body was laid.

Mark 16:1-8

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, 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. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb. When they looked up, they saw that the stone had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe. 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. Go, tell his disciples that he is going ahead of you to Galilee." 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.

Luke: 24:6-11

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb. Suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them, and said, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? Remember how he told you, that the Son of Man must be handed over and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

John 20:11-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed. Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

ANTHEM

Look at the World
Chancel Choir

John Rutter

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

THE STORY of MARY and MARTHA

John 11:1-44

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus...cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

REFLECTING ON THE STORY "There's Something About Mary..."

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND PRAYERS

All are invited to place their offerings and prayer cards in the plates as they're passed.

During the Music for Reflection, you may reflect upon the image of Mary found in your bulletin.

SHARING OUR COMMUNAL PRAYERS

PRAYER RESPONSE—THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

*HYMN

A Hymn for Mary Magdalene

inside back page 11

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*BLESSING OUR COMMUNITY

One: People of God, we are called to be like Mary,
and walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

Many: **Loving kindness, acting justly, walking humbly with our God.**

One: In the midst of a broken world,

Many: **My we proclaim the God of Healing.**

One: In the midst of despair,

Many: **May we proclaim the God of Hope.**

One: In the midst of indifference and apathy,

Many: **May we proclaim the God of Love and Compassion.**

All: **We go now, knowing that God is with us, always! Amen!**

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Easter Dialogue

Melchior Vulpius/
Gilbert M. Martin

*(*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. **The next new member informational sessions will be held May 1 and May 9.** New members will be formally received on Sunday, May 19. 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 this week due to school vacations, and will resume next week.
- Our church nursery is open, but not staffed today, and is available for parents with young children to use.
- 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

Sue Ruggiero

Paul Schellenberg

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Acting Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Videographer

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are from the memorial service for Steve Cyr, held here yesterday in our sanctuary.

KENTUCKY DERBY SOCIAL: Wear your favorite derby hat/attire and join us on May 4 for this fun annual event hosted by the Sue & Bruce Manchester, along with the Fellowship team. We will have activities for kiddos as well so please know all generations are welcome and encouraged to attend! This is a potluck style event, and is BYOB. Please RSVP to Meredith Dart by May 1st, meredith.dart@astellas.com.

LEVI SUNDAY IS MAY 5: Wear your work clothes to church and join us after worship for our annual spring cleaning day. We have our usual spring projects such as yard clean up, spreading mulch and sweeping/cleaning the parking lot. Bring your own tools for the jobs you want to tackle. Many hands make light work!

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.

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

GOOD STUFF SALE: This popular WA event is a fundraiser for the Woman's Association and the church. Here is what you should know:

- This event takes place in the Vestry and the Community Room on Friday, April 26, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., and on Saturday, April 27, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- The sale features clothing for all ages, linens, handbags, jewelry, household items, books, toys and games, all at bargain prices.
- Donations of clothing, toys, books, jewelry and handbags, linens and household items can be dropped off in the Vestry by April 21.

Help is needed with set-up during the day on Monday, April 23, through Thursday, April 25, and at the event on Friday and Saturday. More hands will be needed on Saturday at noon to bag up unsold items (many of which will be taken to the Ecosmith container at the Meeting Place) and to load non-clothing items into cars or trucks to be delivered to Goodwill.

If you can help at any of these times, please contact Sally Bowkett at sbb46@hotmail.com or 603-673-7409.

Mary Magdalene finds Jesus alive!



www.THECOLOR.com

I Come to the Garden Alone

(In the Garden)

John 20:14-18

C. Austin Miles, 1912

1 I come to the gar - den a - lone, while the dew is still on the
 2 He speaks, and the sound of his voice is so sweet the birds hush their
 3 I'd stay in the gar - den with him, though the night a - round me be

ros - es; And the voice I hear, fall - ing on my ear, the
 sing - ing; And the mel - o - dy that he gave to me with -
 fall - ing; But he bids me go; through the voice of woe his

Refrain

Son of God dis - clos - es.
 in my heart is ring - ing. And he walks with me, and he
 voice to me is call - ing.

talks with me, and he tells me I am his own, And the

joy we share as we tar - ry there, none oth - er has ev - er known.

C. Austin Miles wrote this hymn and its music to tell the story of
 Mary Magdalene's encounter with Jesus at the tomb, when she
 recognizes him and calls him "Rabboni" ("Teacher").

Tune: GARDEN 8.9.5.5.7. with refrain
 C. Austin Miles, 1912

A Hymn for Mary Magdalene

EBENEZER (Williams) 8.7.8.7.D

Mary Magdalene was suffering
in her body, mind and soul —
until Jesus met her, offering
love that made the wounded whole.
God, may we like Mary meet you
and accept your healing grace.
May we be — like Mary — grateful
as we serve you in this place.

“Tower of Strength,” the people called her —
Christ’s disciple, come what may.
She with other women traveled,
funding Christ’s work on the Way.
We are also on a journey
sharing in Christ’s ministry.
Make us strong in Christ to serve you
with great generosity.
Mary was a weeping witness
as she stood there at the cross.
At the tomb, she grieved for Jesus;
love had paid a heavy cost.
Three days on, the risen Savior
gave her good news to proclaim.
She was first to preach the gospel.
May we share it, just the same!
Mary’s one that we’ve lost sight of
in our church’s history.
She’s been labeled and made light of;
she’s been called a mystery.
May we see her loving witness
in these stories we’ve been told;
And may her example help us
To be faithful, strong and bold.

Tune: EBENEZER Thomas John Williams, 1890 ("Why Do Nations Rage Together").

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Permission is given for free use of this hymn for churches and ecumenical services.

Sunday, April 21, 2024

Congregational Church of Amherst Fundraiser



Ecosmith Recyclers Inc. and Congregational Church are proud to partner in hosting a fundraising clothing and shoe drive.

Raise money to support your local church by donating new or used articles of clothing, pairs of shoes, and household textiles.



CLOTHING & SHOE DRIVE

WHAT TO DONATE

- Shirts
- Jeans
- Pants
- Shorts
- Sweaters
- Jackets
- Socks
- Dresses
- Skirts
- Bed linen
- Purses
- Backpacks
- Hats
- Scarves
- Belts
- Sneakers
- Sandals
- Dress Shoes
- Boots
- Towels

PLEASE BAG SHOES AND CLOTHING
SEPARATELY

WHEN

April 26th through May 10th

WHERE

Meeting Place Plaza
199 Route 101, Amherst, NH

CONTACT

Mark & Fran Baddeley
baddeley@comcast.net

All collected material is destined for export to less advantaged persons in developing nations around the world.

info@ecosmithrecyclers.com • 11 Byam Road, New Boston, NH 03070 • 603-647-1088