

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



*“Our waiting is not nothing.
It is something – a very big something –
because people tend to be shaped by whatever it is they are waiting for.”*

– Barbara Brown Taylor

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."*

May 5, 2024

Sixth Sunday of Easter—Ascension 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

Crown Him Lord of All!

James Ellor/
Gilbert M. Martin

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: From near and far, we gather in God's name,

**Many: to pray, to worship, to sing,
to celebrate at God's table.**

One: We gather as a community of faith,

**Many: as seekers, questioners, and believers,
learning and growing together.**

One: We gather as witnesses to Jesus' mission,

**Many: to spread the Good News
of God's healing love for all of creation.**

One: We gather to give thanks, for God creating anew.

**Many: Come, let us worship together
at God's wide and wonderful table!**

*HYMN

Gather Us In

back pages 10 & 11

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

**God of all things new,
as we prepare to worship today,
we ask that you stretch our imaginations
beyond what we can see before us.
Help us to sense the mystery of your presence
so that we can trust in the future,
even as we wait for it to unfold.
Be with us in the liminal spaces:
Between the present and what is to come.
Between unrest and rest.
Between not knowing and knowing.
Comfort us. Guide us. Inspire us.
And hear us as we pray as Jesus taught us:**

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.

*GLORIA PATRI

**Gloria 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.**

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ANTHEM

If Ye Love Me
Chancel Choir

Thomas Tallis

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 1:1-14

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

SERMON

"Are We There Yet?"

*HYMN

Open My Eyes That I May See

No. 324

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

Ab Ascensione Domini
(From the Ascension of the Lord)

Carlotta Ferrari

*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)

Creating God, who made us who we are, we offer all of ourselves to you. Take our talents, our energy and our joy, and use us to share your love. Take our mistakes, our regrets and our pain, and use us to bring your healing. Magnify the gifts we offer before you today, to spread our peace in 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

Voluntary

Artemas Nixon Johnson

Communion

Jules Cohen

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

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

No. 1

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Alleluia from Douze Pièces pour Orgue

Georges A.P. Jacob

*(*Please rise 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. **The next new member informational session will be held on 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 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
Sara L. Phelps
Michael Havay
Kathleen Bouchard
Paul Schellenberg

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

LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley
Sue Werst
Dave Hagerstrom
Lyndsay Curtis

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

TODAY IS LEVI SUNDAY IS MAY 5: 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!

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.

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

GOOD STUFF SALE THANKS: The Woman's Association would like to thank all church members and friends who helped to make our 2024 Good Stuff Sale such a success. The sale netted just over \$4,000! The proceeds from the sale enable the Woman's Association to support our church and numerous community organizations throughout the year.

Thank you to all who donated their "good stuff" to the sale and to the Communications Team for publicizing the event on church media.

Special thanks go to the following "Friends of the WA" who generously donated their time to help with set-up, clean-up, or sales. Their help was invaluable in making the sale so successful. We apologize to anyone who was inadvertently omitted: Fran Baddeley, Mark Baddeley, Steve Boczenowski, Colleen Cushing, Susan Deschenes, Marty Furst, Leona Hendrickson, Bruce Kinney, Art Leknes, Vicky Leknes, Heather MacDonald, Bruce Manchester, Dave Phelps, Dave Poltack, Kathe Richardson, Carolin Sanchez, Dick Stout, Holly Tonnesen, Doug Toppliffe, Neal Toppliffe, Wendy Valeri, Tom Werst.

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, May 19, 2024

11:30 a.m.



In accordance with the By-laws of the Congregational Church of Amherst, NH, United Church of Christ, the call for the Annual Meeting is hereby made for Sunday morning, May 19, 2024, immediately following worship services.

The meeting will be held in the community room at the church and also via Zoom (details will be emailed and also available on the church website).

Your officers and council members look forward to your attendance and input at this important meeting.

NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS INFO

SESSIONS: Are you NEW (or not-so-new) to our church and interested in learning more about our congregation? Are you interested in learning more about becoming a member? Do you want to know more about the UCC? If so, please join us for an info session on Thursday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom to learn more about all of the above!

For those who've already joined our mailing list and/or inquired about becoming a member, you'll be hearing from us soon! If you've joined us for our in-person or online worship over the last year and are interested in attending one of our info sessions please reach out to Andrea in our church office at andrea@ccamherst.org or 673-3231, or contact Pastor Maureen at pastormaureen@ccamherst.org.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for May 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!

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

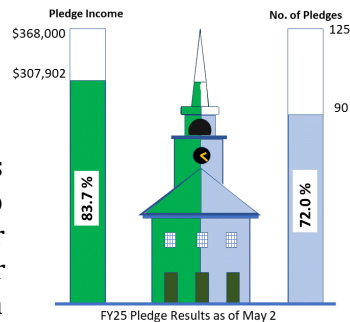
May 5—11, 2024

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. 11:15 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 2:45 p.m.	Worship Fellowship Youth Choir Levi Sunday Youth Groups
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Tuesday	4:30 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
Thursday	9:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Congregational Care Communications Bell Choir New Member Info Session Chancel Choir

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, mail in your pledge intentions, call Andrea (673-3231) or go to the church website <https://www.ccamherst.org/stewardship-pledge/>.



Patricia Ansdell
Shayna Appel
Mark & Fran Baddeley
Ken & Charlotte Bell
Steve & Deb Boczenowski
Patricia Bodan
Sally Bowkett
Lee Bowley & Gail Miller
Jack & Patricia Buben
Tim & Kelly Cackett
Sydney Conti
Wayne & Audrey Crosswell
Colleen Cushing
Camille Davis
Tyler & Gretchen Davis
Russell & Sandra Demarest
Eric Doberstein &
 Robin Clark
Susan Deschenes &
 Fred Dyke
Cynthia Dokmo
Judi Dunbar
Joan & William Dunn
Greg & Jennifer Eccleston
Joan Egbertson
Stephen Egbertson
Matthew & Stephanie
 Emmons
Matt & Laura Endres
Judy Ferraro
Alvin & Heidi Fortune
Maureen Frescott
Andre & Nancy Gagnon

Edith Gambée
Sheryl Gottwald
Nathan & Jessica Greer
Dave & Kim Hagerstrom
Leona Hendrickson
John & Linda Herrin
Scott & Sally Hewett
Susan & Don Holden
Roger & Sally Hooper
Nye & Angela Hornor
Jana Howe
Mary Howe
Kelly & Stephen Isaacs
Bruce & Regina Kinney
Wilene Knight
Ted Krantz
Romi Krosch
Peter & Irene Labombarde
Keith & Gail Lammers
Tedd & Carol Landon
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
Chris & Gretchen Pyles
Craig & Katherine Richardson
Travis & Larissa Riley
Sue Ruggiero
Carol St. Jean
Vic & Carolin Sanchez
Paul & Maggie Schellenberg
Beth Secor
Kathy & Skip Skoglund
Paul & Susan Spiess
Richard & Kathleen Steeves
Sean & Ann Stevenson
Marianne & Ollie Stone
Richard & Susan Stout
Marshall & Audrey Strickland
John & Anita Swanson
Bill Swift
Kate & Keith Thompson
Holly Tonnesen
Jean Tonnesen
Douglas & Adrienne Topliffe
Sally & Michael Varanka
Charles & Rolinda Vars
Thomas & Susan Werst
Todd & Jennifer Whitney
Tim & Gail Wiegand
Alicia Wight
Ken & Barbara Wolfe

Gather Us In

Unison D A C G Gm/B \flat Dm

1. Here in this place, the new light is stream-ing, sha-dows of doubt are
 2. We are the young—our lives are a mys-tery; we are the old, who
 3. Here we re-ceive new life in the wa-ters; here we re-ceive the
 4. Not just in build-ings, small and con-fin-ing, not in some heav - en,

C G D A C G

van-ished a - way. See in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his - tory,
 bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a - way, here in this place the new light is shin - ing;

Gm/B \flat Dm C Am7 D

brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is God pres-ent, and now is the day.

WORDS and MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1981

GATHER US IN
Irr.

A C/G D/F# G A C/G

Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en; gath-er us in; our
 Gath-er us in— the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in— the
 Give us to drink the wine of com- pass- ion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er; gath-er us in and

D/F# G A D A C G

spir - its in - flame. Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly;
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,

Gm/Bb Dm C Am7 D C/D Gm/D D

we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Sunday, May 5, 2024

Milford Rotary 100 Holes of Golf Raffle Tickets



- 10 cash prizes range from \$500—\$5,000. Yes, you could win \$5,000!
- Ticket price is \$20, and \$10 comes straight back to the church.
- Drawing Friday, June 14, 2024 — you do not need to be in attendance to win.
- Bonus: each ticket comes with great local coupons, including Giorgios, Aroma Joes, and more.

Each year this event raises considerable funds that are distributed to local, regional and international community and non-profit organizations, and are used to provide \$30,000 in scholarships to area students.

To purchase tickets, follow this link:

<https://golf100holes.com/product/raffle-ticket?ref=59>

Judi Dunbar will also be selling tickets in the community room after worship.

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.

The Ascension of Jesus

