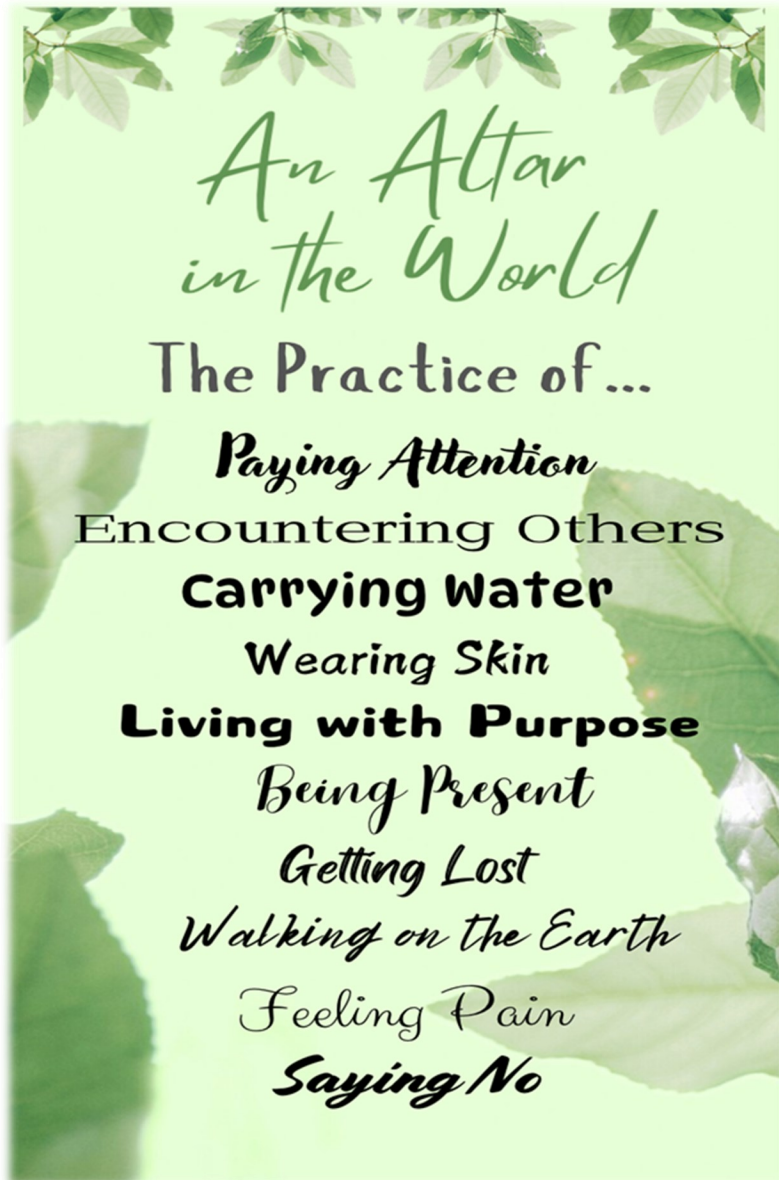


The Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
Amherst, New Hampshire



# 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."*

October 20, 2024

MISSION SUNDAY

10:00 a.m.

## AN ALTAR IN THE WORLD *The Practice of Encountering Others*

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

*How Firm a Foundation*

Jason D. Payne

INTROIT

\*GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY and INVITING GOD'S PRESENCE

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

One: This is the day that God has made:

**Many: a day for praise and prayer;  
a day for gratitude and generosity.**

One: This is the time God has gifted us:

**Many: a time for singing and silence;  
a time for speaking and listening.**

One: This is the life to which God calls us:

**Many: a life of faith and service;  
a life of humility and healing.**

One: This is the way we worship you, O God:

**Many: filled with your Spirit,  
listening for your Word,  
bringing your Peace and Hope to our world!**

\*HYMN

*Come, O Fount of Every Blessing*

insert

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

THE STORY OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN Luke 10:25-37

ANTHEM

*Lord, Here Am I*  
Chancel Choir

John Ness Beck

\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

THE GOOD SAMARITAN STORY - FIVE PERSPECTIVES

Reflections on the Story: the Lawyer, the Man on the Road, the Priest, the Levite, the Samaritan

SHARING OUR OFFERINGS AND OUR PRAYERS

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

MUSIC FOR OUR OFFERINGS

*Benediction*

Fenton Groden

JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE LORD'S PRAYER - A Contemporary Interpretation (unison)

**Holy One, closer to us than our own hearts,**

**farther from us than the most distant star,**

**you are beyond naming.**

**May your powerful presence become obvious**

**not only in the undeniable glory of the sky,**

**but also in the seemingly common processes of the earth.**

**Give us what we need, day by day,**

**to keep body and soul together,**

**because clever as you have made us,**

**we still owe our existence to you.**

**We recognize that to be reconciled with you,**

**we must live peaceably and justly with other human beings,**

**putting hate and bitterness behind us.**

**We are torn between our faith in your goodness**

**and our awareness of the evil in your creation,**

**so deliver us from the temptation to despair.**

**Yours alone is the universe and all its majesty and beauty.**

**Amen.**

MISSION SUNDAY MOMENT

Doreen and David Rinas, Messiah Lutheran Church

*An invitation to serve our neighbors through the Asylum Sponsorship Project.*

*Please join Doreen and David in the Community Room after worship to learn more about how you can get involved.*

\*HYMN

*O God, You Give Us Neighbors*

TUNE: AURELIA (*The Church's One Foundation*)

O God, you give us neighbors for whom your love abounds.  
They've come here seeking refuge, or sanctuary in our towns.  
They long to give their children a safer, better life.  
O Lord, we grieve when neighbors find only pain and strife.

O God, you give us neighbors and call us all to see  
our common fears and longings, our shared humanity.  
You call us all to listen to burdens they have known,  
to hear the truth they tell us, to see the love they've shown.

O God, you give us neighbors in this world that divides.  
We see them at the border; they're struggling for their lives.  
They're hurting by the roadside, and in our cities, too.  
You call us to show mercy to neighbors loved by you.

O God, you give us neighbors; and now, what must we do?  
This question asked of Jesus is one we ask anew.  
God, may we work for justice for those who live in fear;  
may we show Christ's compassion, and pray and persevere.

\*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*BLESSING OUR COMMUNITY

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

\*POSTLUDE

*Sortie*

George Blake

*(\*Please rise in body or spirit.)*

*Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service  
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*Hymn – O God You Give Us Neighbors  
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# 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 October 24 and October 30.** New members will be formally received on Sunday, November 10. 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  
Rev. Charlotte E. Y. Bell  
Rev. Shayna Appel  
Shellie Brook  
Sara L. Phelps  
Michael Havay  
John Swanson  
Steve Boczenowski, Russ Demarest  
Mark Baddeley, Reid Cunningham  
Liz MacMillan and Hamilton Stewart  
The Isaacs Family  
Paul Schellenberg

Ministers to the World  
Senior Pastor  
Associate Pastor  
Guest Pastor  
Student Pastor  
Director of Music  
Organist/Accompanist  
Deacon in Charge  
Deacons  
Liturgists  
Ushers  
Greeters  
Videographer

\*\*\*\*\*

## LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley  
Sue Werst  
Larissa Riley  
Dave Hagerstrom  
Sheryl Gottwald, Linda Lannin  
Gretchen Davis

Director of Youth Ministries  
Teacher, Preschool /Kindergarten  
Teacher, Grades 1 to 4  
Teacher, Grades 5 to 7  
Assistant Teachers  
Nursery Attendant

**THE YOUTH CHOIR** meets today in the vestry after worship. Come and sing with us!

**LEVI SUNDAY:** Fall is upon us and trees are dropping their colorful leaves again. Time for another Levi Sunday, this year planned for **November 3** right after worship.

We have a number of outdoor projects planned including leaf raking and general lawn and grounds clean up. Everyone is invited to come out and help. Please bring your favorite rake and tools to help accomplish the jobs you would like to help with. Many hands make light work! Hope to see you there.

**TRICK OR TREAT:** Trick or Treat on Halloween in the Amherst village is a fun, slightly chaotic night, bringing lots of ghosts, goblins and other scary (and not-so-scary) beings into town. Once again, our church is participating in the activity in the village by passing out candy. Since we can easily see upwards of 1000 children, we are in need of lots of fun-sized candy.

We recognize that candy is not for everyone, and so we also hope to have a few small items to give out as an alternative to candy: think party favors such as glow sticks, small coloring books, pencils, stickers, etc. Thank you so much for your generosity!

## Why Church?

Second Hour Discussion  
Sunday, October 27 at 11:30 a.m.



Why is being a part of a church community important to you?  
What role do church communities play in today's world?  
What will the church look like in years to come?

After worship on October 27, join us for a **Second Hour discussion at 11:30 a.m.** as we share our responses to the question, "Why Church?" and explore how widening our welcome may invite others to be "church" along with us. The discussion will be facilitated by Pastor Maureen and members of our WOW Team.

### All are welcome!

Lunch and childcare will be provided.  
Please RSVP to [pastormaureen@ccamherst.org](mailto:pastormaureen@ccamherst.org)  
to ensure we have enough space and lunch for all!

**NEW MEMBER 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 United Church of Christ? If so, please join us for one of our INFO SESSIONS on either Thursday, October 24 or Wednesday, October 30 at 7:00 p.m. to learn more about all of the above! The sessions will be held on ZOOM to make it easier for all to attend.

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](mailto:andrea@ccamherst.org) or contact Pastor Maureen at [pastormaureen@ccamherst.org](mailto:pastormaureen@ccamherst.org).

**NEIGHBORS IN NEED:** In 2024, the Neighbors in Need theme is "**Mental Health Justice For All!**" This year's focus is on Mental Health Justice. In 2015, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed a resolution to become WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) for mental health.

A just world for all is a world where the human rights and well-being of people with mental health challenges are respected, no matter who you are or where you are in life's mental health journey.

This appeal will run for the month of October. To donate, visit our Online Giving page or send a check to the church office (11 Church St., Amherst, NH 03031) with *Neighbors in Need* in the memo line.

We thank you for your support and generosity.

*Sunday, October 20, 2024*



*The hardest spiritual work in the world  
is to love the neighbor—  
to encounter another human being  
not as someone you can use, change, fix,  
help, save, enroll, convince or control,  
but simply as someone who can spring you  
from the prison of yourself,  
if you will allow it.*

*All you have to do is recognize another you “out there”—  
your other self in the world—  
for whom you may care as instinctively  
as you care for yourself.*

— Barbara Brown Taylor





**Jesus said: "Love your neighbor!"**

