

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."*

March 2, 2025

Transfiguration 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

*Variation Set on "Swabia"
(This is the Day of Light)*

Johann Spiess/
David Lasky

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: We gather in the light of Christ,

Many: Called to listen, to see, to follow.

One: With hearts open to God's presence,

Many: We seek to walk in the way of Love.

One: We follow Christ's light,

Many: And in His light, we find our way.

One: Come let us worship God together.

All: We will worship and live with wonder, love and praise.

*HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

No. 376

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

The congregation may be seated.

God of Light and Love, we long to hear Your voice, to see Your truth. May we be transformed by Your grace as we participate in Your transforming love that illuminates the path to peace and justice. May we embody compassion and live with hope as we follow in the way of Jesus who taught us to pray saying...

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**

**Glory 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.**

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 9:28-36

Good News Translation

About a week after he had said these things, Jesus took Peter, John, and James with him and went up a mountain to pray. While he was praying, his face changed its appearance, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly two men were there talking with him. They were Moses and Elijah, who appeared in heavenly glory and talked with Jesus about the way in which he would soon fulfill God's purpose by dying in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were sound asleep, but they woke up and saw Jesus' glory and the two men who were standing with him. As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, how good it is that we are here! We will make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." (He did not really know what he was saying.)

While he was still speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them with its shadow; and the disciples were afraid as the cloud came over them. A voice said from the cloud, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen—listen to him!"

When the voice stopped, there was Jesus all alone. The disciples kept quiet about all this and told no one at that time anything they had seen.

SERMON

"From the Mountain to the World"

***HYMN**

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

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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.

ORGAN RESPONSE

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Jesus Calls Us

William H. Jude/Lani Smith

*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)

We dedicate these gifts, our whole lives, and our whole selves to You. May we, like the disciples, come down from the mountain, to bring Your light into the valleys, to walk with those who struggle, to lift up the oppressed, to care for creation, and to build a community where everyone is welcomed, no one is excluded and all are seen as beloved. May we reflect the brightness of Your love in all that we say, do, and are. 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: On this Transfiguration Sunday, we gather at the table of Christ, where divine light breaks through our human understanding,

Many: Where we are invited not just to behold, but to participate in God's transforming love.

One: Here, we remember that Jesus revealed God's love to the world — a love that is inclusive, expansive, and justice-seeking. We come to this table not only to be nourished, but to be changed,

Many: To carry the light of Christ into the world with courage and compassion.

One: So come now to this table that has been prepared for you that we may remember and be renewed as we share the bread of life and the cup of hope. All are welcome at this table,

Many: For here, the love of God knows no bounds.

COMMUNION PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION and 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

Living Bread

Henry Baker/
Richard A. Williamson

Blessed Are the Pure in Heart

Steven Scott

COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

God of Light, we thank You for this sacred meal, for this covenant community and for this table — to remember and be renewed by Your grace and Your Spirit. Center us once again upon Your loving kindness. May we live with deeper intention and greater attention. Help us to listen deeply to Your voice and to live out Your truth. May Your love be the light that guides our path as we carry the light of Christ as a beacon of hope. Amen.

*HYMN

We Are Walking in the Light of God

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verse 1: We are walking...

verse 2: We are praying...

verse 3: We are singing...

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*ORGAN RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Lord Jesus, Light That Never Fails

Rex Koury

*(*Please rise 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 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. Charlotte E. Y. Bell

Shellie Brook

Michael Havay

Roger Hooper

Steve Boczenowski, Kathleen Bouchard, Sally Hooper, Gail Wiegand

Doug Topliffe

Ministers to the World

Associate Pastor

Student Pastor

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Deacons

Videographer

LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley

Kelly Isaacs

Larissa Riley

Dave Hagerstrom

Melissa Lewis

Director of Youth Ministries

Teacher, Preschool /Kindergarten

Teacher, Grades 1 to 4

Teacher, Grades 5 to 7

Nursery Attendant

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott

Sara L. Phelps

Senior Pastor

Director of Music

WA SUNDAY IS MARCH 9: Members of the Woman's Association will participate in the service and then host the fellowship time in the Community Room following the service. All are invited! There will be a number of pieces of artwork on display at this time, art that has been donated to WA, and attendees are invited to select one or more pieces of art to take home. The price? Free—or whatever you choose to donate. For more information, contact Kay Steeves (kksteeves@gmail.com).

BEWARE OF FALLING SNOW AND ICE: During the winter months, we want to remind everyone that snow and ice may fall from our roof at any time. Please use caution when in our driveway, and do not walk too close to the building.

THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET MEETING'S Zoom recording and presentation slides are available on our church's website, under the Members section.

GOOD STUFF SALE DONATIONS: This year's Woman's Association's "Good Stuff Sale" will be held on May 2 and 3. It's not too early to look around your home for things you might want to donate to this fundraiser to support the church and community organizations. The sale includes clothing and accessories, jewelry, household items, toys and much more.

Questions? Contact Sally Bowkett, sbb46@hotmail.com or 603-673-7409, or Alicia Wight, wightalicia@gmail.com or 603-345-0155.

ASH WEDNESDAY MARCH 5



SERVICE AT 7:00 P.M.

Join us in the sanctuary as we begin the season of Lent with our traditional Ash Wednesday service. We will come together for a time of contemplative prayer, readings, special music, communion, and the distribution of ashes.

Our Church Calendar

March 2—8, 2025

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.

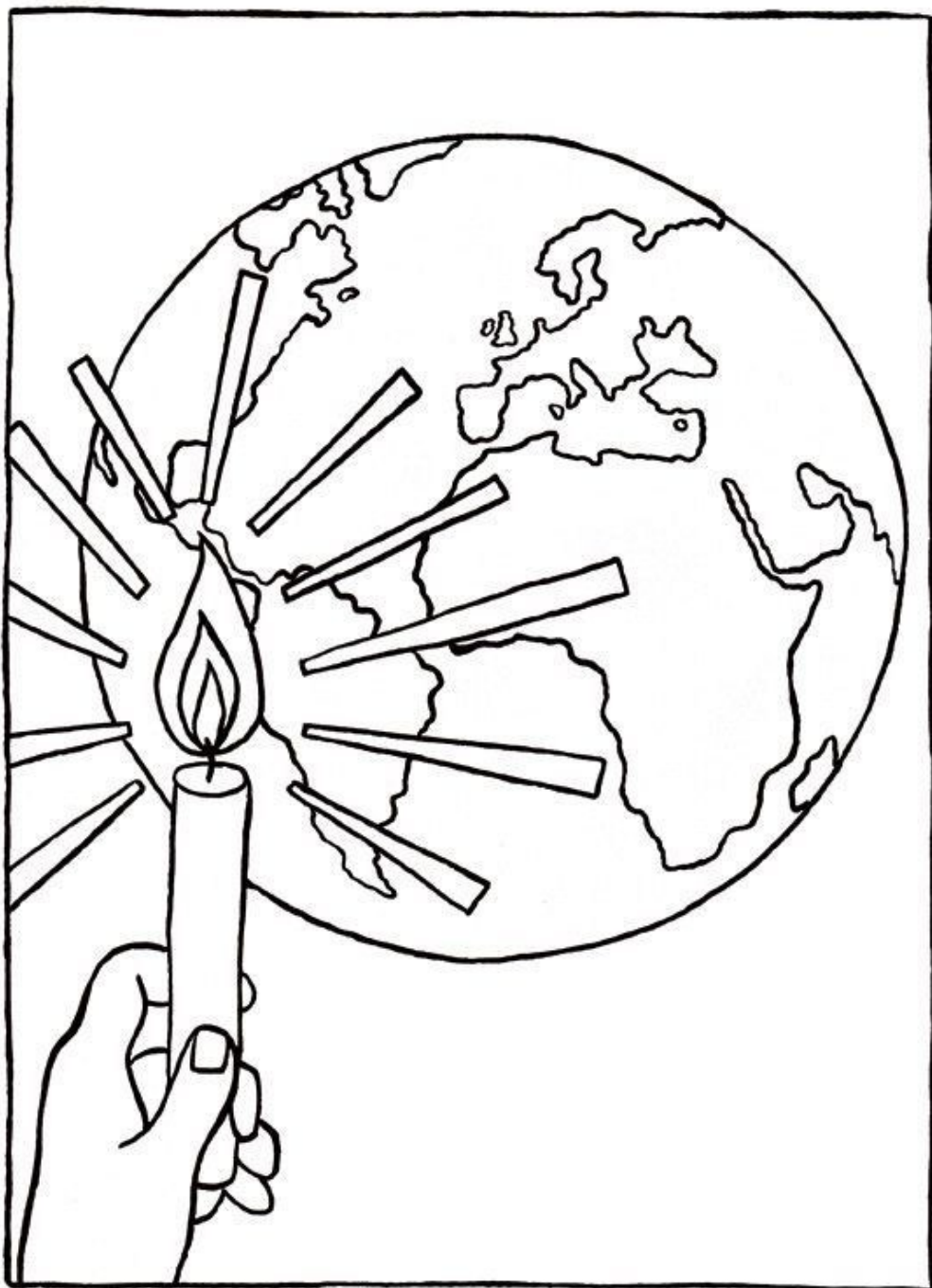
Today	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:15 a.m.	Fellowship
	11:30 a.m.	Junior Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Tuesday	4:30 p.m.	Church Council
	7:00 p.m.	Trustees of the Facility
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday Adult Ed
	7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Service
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir

144 ENVELOPES FUNDRAISER CONTINUES:

Our Senior Youth Group's *144 Envelopes Fundraiser*, to help pay for the 2025 Hurricane Helene Relief Mission Trip, is now underway. After worship, be sure to visit the bulletin board in the Community Room to learn more about the trip and check out the numbered envelopes decorated by the teens. It's easy to support the trip: just choose an envelope from 1 to 144 and make a donation in the amount equal to the number you chose. If you only have \$5 to give, or your child wants to donate \$1, that's great! We need every envelope to be selected in order to reach our goal of \$10,000. We are grateful for every dollar given.

DID YOU KNOW: As Spring approaches, Pow Wow 2025 season in New Hampshire is not far behind! A Pow Wow is a gathering held by many Native American and First Nations Communities. Begun in 1923, Pow Wows are an opportunity for indigenous people to socialize, dance, sing and honor their cultures. The Spring Awakening Pow Wow is a public event and will take place at Winnisquam High School in Tilton on May 9, 2025. It will feature Native American food, vendors, raffles, drums, and dances. The Alstead Koasek Pow Wow will be held on March 31 and June 1 at the Alstead Town Common and this Pow Wow is also open to the public. For more information about the many other Pow Wow's held throughout the year in New Hampshire, google the New Hampshire Pow Wow Calendar 2025.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for March include canned fruit, flour, sugar, coffee and tea, juice, instant rice, cold cereal, instant oatmeal packets, individually wrapped snacks. 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!



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Sunday, March 2, 2025



*Saturday March 15
5pm*

Congregational Church of Amherst UCC

Join us for a night of JOY including:
kazooos, tambourines, maracas, bubbles,
painting a canvas of joy,
pancakes in the community room
following the service. Wearing bright
colors encouraged!!