

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



*“Money is not the only commodity that we have to give.
We can give time, we can give our expertise,
we can give our love or simply give a smile.
What does that cost? The point is, none of us can ever run out
of something worthwhile to give.”*

— Steve Goodier

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 6, 2025

Fifth Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m.

Faith Promise Sunday

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

Ebarme dich, mein Gott (Have Mercy, My God)
Natalie Berger, oboe

J.S. Bach

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise in body or spirit.

- One: We come to this place
because we want to know God,
**Many: who created us and guides us,
who helps us to walk the path to new life.**
- One: We come in these moments
because we want to know Jesus,
**Many: who teaches us and comforts us,
who shares our joy and our pain with us.**
- One: We come before you, O God,
because we want to know your Spirit.
**Many: Your Spirit inspires us and provokes us
to be the world changers you call us to be.
We come before you now to worship!**

LENTEN LITANY OF CONFESSION and WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The congregation may be seated.

One: Gracious God, we are not perfect beings.

Many: We confess that often we are resistant to the new thing that you are doing.

One: So often we are not looking,
and sometimes we choose not to see.

**Many: We are comfortable with the way things are—
we grow weary of the call to change.**

One: Sometimes we see, but our hearts are hardened
and we look away, making excuses.

Many: But you call us to respond, to live in your world now.

One: Forgive our status-quo caution, our focus on self-preservation.

Many: Forgive our narrow vision and insistence that you fit into our plans.

One: Open us to the movement of your Spirit,

Many: and give us generous hearts in response to your call.

One: Our ever merciful God leads us into new life,
where we are restored to grace, to hope, and to peace.

**Many: We are grateful for what God has done for us and for what God is doing in us.
This is good news for everyone. Thanks be to God!**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

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.

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ANTHEM

The Lord is My Shepherd from *Requiem*
Chancel Choir
Natalie Berger, oboe

John Rutter

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

SERMON

"Radical Generosity"

*HYMN

As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought

No. 414

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

SHARING OUR OFFERINGS AND FAITH PROMISE PLEDGES

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

William B. Bradbury/
Dale Wood

*BLESSING OF THE OFFERING (TUNE: AR HYD Y NOS)

For the fruit of all Creation, Thanks be to God.

For the gifts to every nation, Thanks be to God.

For the plowing, sowing, reaping, Silent growth while we are sleeping,

Future needs in earth's safe-keeping, Thanks be to God!

*FAITH PROMISE LITANY OF DEDICATION

One: Generous God, we give you thanks this day
as we gather our offerings of time and talent,
along with our pledges of support for this faith community.
We bring them before you with anticipation and hope.

Many: **Hear us, O God, as we give you our thanks and praise.**

One: For those whose lives have been touched by your Spirit
and who have given of themselves generously,

Many: We give you thanks and praise.

One: For those who are unable to give at this time,
but who continue to be a vital part of our community,

Many: We give you thanks and praise.

One: That each one of us, and your whole Church,
become more faithful to the call of service through Jesus,

Many: We ask your continuing guidance and care.

One: That these pledges may emerge as real gifts,
enabling the mission and ministry of this church to come to life as we serve others.

**Many: With open and giving hearts,
we commit our time, talent, and treasure to you, O God. 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION and CONSECRATING PRAYER

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

The bread and juice will be served in the pews. You are invited to take a piece of bread and a cup of juice, and you may eat and drink whenever you are ready to do so, and then spend some time in reflective prayer. The bread is gluten, egg, and dairy free.

ORGAN MEDITATION

A Song of Life

Lani Smith

O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done

Isaac B. Woodbury/
Robert J. Powell

COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

Generous God, you have blessed our tables and our lives. May the sharing of this meal give us courage to speak and act with love, not only in church sanctuaries, but out in your precious world. Wrap your hopeful presence around all whose bodies, spirits, and hearts long for healing, and may we become your compassionate and safe refuge for all. Amen.

*HYMN

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

No. 514

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Recessional

Joseph Roff

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

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

*Portions of the liturgy have been adapted from
Thom Shuman, and posted on [Lectionary Liturgies](#),
and from the Rev. Teri Peterson, posted on [Liturgy Link](#).*

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 April 22 and 23.** New members will be formally received on Sunday, May 4. 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
Rev. Charlotte E. Y. Bell
Shellie Brook
Sara L. Phelps
Michael Havay
Steve Boczenowski
Patricia Bodan

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

LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley
Kelly Isaacs
Larissa Riley
Dave Hagerstrom
Gretchen Davis

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

DEACON'S FRIENDSHIP BASKETS: This morning our Deacons will be passing our Friendship baskets. This collection will support community outreach through Easter grocery gift cards provided to local families in need. Thank you very much for your generosity!

COOKIE WALK: The Senior Youth Group will be holding a Cookie Walk Fundraiser in the vestry after worship on April 13! Purchase a box for \$5 and fill it with your favorite cookies from our cookie buffet. Proceeds support the 2025 Mission Trip.

LEVI SUNDAY IS APRIL 27: Save the date for our annual spring cleaning Sunday. Come dressed to worship in your work clothes and after the service we'll head outside to tackle a number of annual spring tasks. Many hands make light work; we hope you will join us.

ANNUAL REPORTS are due to Andrea in the church office by April 15.

THE LENTEN SUPPER SERIES, *Questions Jesus Asked*, continues on Wednesday, April 9, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Join us on six Wednesday evenings during Lent as we gather for a simple supper of soup and bread and explore six questions that Jesus asked in our Gospels that reflect the joys and challenges of being human. We'll gather in the second floor parlor for soup and then watch a short video before engaging in an informal discussion facilitated by Pastor Maureen. Those who can't be present in person are welcome to Zoom in for the video and discussion, and for supper as well if you'd like to eat with us from afar!

Email pastormaureen@ccamherst.org to RSVP or to receive the Zoom link.

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.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for April include condiments, cooking sauces and seasonings, cooking oil, pasta sauce, tomato sauce, tomato paste, diced tomatoes. 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!

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 Tuesday, April 22 or Wednesday, April 23 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 or contact Pastor Maureen at pastormaureen@ccamherst.org.

Our Church Calendar

April 6—12, 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
	11:15 a.m.	Youth Choir
	11:30 a.m.	Junior Youth Group
	11:30 a.m.	Small Group Ministry
	6:00 p.m.	Senior Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	WA Board
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Lenten Supper Series
Thursday	10:00 a.m.	Congregational Care
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir

Holy Week Services



Palm/Passion Sunday

April 13 - 10:00 a.m.

We begin with the traditional waving of the palms and end with a presentation of the Passion story.

Maundy Thursday

April 17 - 7:00 p.m.

A prayerful reflective service with Communion and Tenebrae – a commemoration of Jesus' last night with his disciples.

Holy Saturday – Palms and Peeps

April 19 – 5:00 p.m.

Moving from darkness to light –
from inside to outside –
celebrate the resurrection to come
with a burning of palms and peeps!

Easter Sunday

April 20

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service on the Amherst village green.

Celebrate the Resurrection at daybreak
followed by coffee and donuts on the green.

10:00 a.m. Easter celebration service in our sanctuary
with our Chancel and Bell Choirs.

Join us as we praise God with a joyful noise!

How I Give Back to GOD (circle the ways you give!)



Name: _____

Sunday, April 6, 2025