

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



“To love freely is like unwrapping the gift to discover the gift.”

—Tracy R. L. O’Flaherty

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."*

June 29, 2025

Third Sunday after Pentecost

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

Let All Things Their Creator Bless

Alfred V. Fedak

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: Our freedom comes as life in the Spirit.

Many: We reject the works based only on our fleshly desires.

One: We live a new life of spirit and truth.

Many: Let us worship the Lord in full spirit.

*HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
verses 1—3

No. 376

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

The congregation may be seated.

God of all life and love: we are your children, and you made us free to live in joyful relationship with you and one another. Your grace empowers us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Give us the courage to love ourselves as much as you love us and to love others with the same compassion. In the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray:

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 ALL AGES

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

All the Way Home
Rebecca and Shellie Brook

Baylor Wilson

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Galatians 5: 1,13-25

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become enslaved to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

SERMON

"Freedom of The Spirit"

*HYMN

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

No. 326

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

Of All the Spirit's Gifts to Me

Bethany Village/
Robert Lau

*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)

Liberating God, who calls us to true freedom, we offer these gifts as signs of our commitment to live by the Spirit's leading. May our generosity reflect your love that is joyful, peaceful, patient, and kind. Through your grace, may we sow seeds of compassion and justice, nurturing the fruit of the Spirit in our lives and the world. Guide us to use our freedom not for ourselves but for service, so that we may build communities of faith and hope. With thankful hearts, we dedicate ourselves to your transforming work. Amen.

*HYMN

O Jesus, I Have Promised

No. 388

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

One: Walk by the Spirit, showing the fruit of the Spirit,
giving thanks to God in all circumstances.

**Many: We will call to mind the many deeds of God.
We will meditate on the wonderful works of God.**

One: As those who belong to Jesus Christ,
inherit the realm of God and share it.

**Many: God walks with us on our daily journey.
God makes a path for us through deep waters.**

One: God grants true freedom to those who love,
who walk in faithfulness all their days.

**All: We accept the prophet's mantle to empower us.
We receive the Spirit's gifts to guide us.
Our worship has ended, and our service begins. Amen.**

*ORGAN RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Trumpet Rondo

Fenton Groden

*(*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 on break for the summer, and resumes on Rally Day, September 7, 2025.
- Our church nursery is open, but not staffed during the summer months. It is available when parents with young children feel the need for a quiet, safe space to go to during worship. A monitor is available to watch and listen to the service.
- 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 for visitors 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

Michael Havay

Kathleen Bouchard

Colleen Cushing, Gail Wiegand

Ken Bell, Tom Werst

Doug Topliffe

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Deacons

Ushers

Videographer

Sara L. Phelps

Larissa Riley

Melissa Lewis

Director of Music

Director of Youth Ministries

Nursery Attendant

JULY 4th HELP NEEDED for cookies, baked or store bought, 2 per baggie. Please leave in kitchen refrigerator anytime or bring to table in center of green if after 8:30 a.m. on July 4th. Volunteers, including kids, are welcome to drop by or stay 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to rest in the shade, pass out cookies and visit with folks! Please contact Carol Landon, 603-494-7734, text or call with any questions.

CAN YOU HELP, SIGN UP NOW: At the Annual Meeting held on May 18th, it was decided that it was best to finance the proposed front lawn signage for the church through a special fundraiser. At this point, virtually everything is ready to go except how to pay for it. Within hours of the meeting, an inspired member of the church stepped up and offered a donation of \$1000 toward the sign project. If any other members are also feeling inspired, please send us a sign (pun intended). You can contact Andrea (andrea@ccamherst.org or 603-673-3231) to make a donation or just write a check and note that it is for the sign. Thanks in advance for your support.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is going to Alaska this summer! In order to transform our sanctuary into the Alaskan Wilderness, we are looking to borrow artificial Christmas trees for the week of VBS. All trees will be carefully labeled and returned at the conclusion of our fun-filled week. If you are able to drop a tree off, please put your name on the box and leave it on the stage in the Community room by July 20.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Larissa Riley at churchschool@ccamherst.org.

WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION SUMMER WORKSHOP: On Monday, July 14 WA members and friends will meet in the church vestry from 10:00 a.m. until noon for an informal gathering. Participants can bring their own craft projects to work on, or just join in the fellowship. A snack and beverages will be provided. Anyone interested in learning more about the Woman's Association is welcome to attend. No RSVP is needed.

Contact Adrienne at abtopliffe@gmail.com with any questions.



Sunday, June 29, 2025