

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



*"True friends are never apart, maybe in distance  
but never in heart."*

—Helen Keller

# 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.”*

July 27, 2025

Seventh 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

*Vater unser in Himmelreich (Our Father in Heaven), BWV 737*

J. S. Bach

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

One: We gather in the presence of God’s steadfast love.

**Many: God, we come seeking your restoration and healing.**

One: We gather by the gift of God’s own Spirit.

**Many: God, we come to listen, we come that we might be heard.**

One: Let us worship and pray.

**All: God, we come in trust that you are already here,  
and already ahead of us, leading the way.**

\*HYMN

*I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

No. 288

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

*The congregation may be seated.*

**Almighty God, we gather in praise and adoration to confess your greatness and goodness. Father, whose love is working in all creation, we praise you. Son of God, who left the safe immunity of heaven to bring us back, we adore you. Holy Spirit, empowering us to proclaim and manifest the good news, we glorify you. Receive our worship, O God, through the ongoing ministry of Christ. We stand in awe before the life of Jesus, a life of humble service, of tender compassion, and of deep communion with you. Teach us to pray, O God! By your mighty Spirit lift us out of ourselves and our self-preoccupation to commune with you and to pour out our hearts in daily prayer. These things we would ask, through and with your son 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.**

\*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 ALL AGES

\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Just a Closer Walk With Thee*  
Jana Howe, ukelele

Traditional Gospel

*Refrain:* Just a closer walk with Thee,  
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,  
Daily walking close to Thee,  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 11:1-13

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." So he said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks

for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

SERMON "A Penny for Your Thoughts"

\*HYMN *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* No. 403

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 *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive* Robert A. Hobby

\*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)

**Generous God, having given us all things, you give us your very self each time we commune with you. In gratitude we dedicate these offerings that the whole world might know the same joy. In Christ we pray. Amen.**

\*HYMN *God Be with You* page 7  
verses 1—4

\*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

\*ORGAN RESPONSE

\*POSTLUDE *Exultate* Roger C. Wilson/  
Carson Cooman

*(\*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. 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 closed today while the floor wax finishes drying.
- 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 memorial garden for a time of fellowship after the worship service. Lemonade and other refreshments are offered. In the case of inclement weather, we will gather in the community room.
- 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](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. Charlotte E. Y. Bell  
Michael Havay  
Sally Hooper  
Sue Ruggiero, Doug Topliffe  
Deb and Steve Boczenowski  
Patricia Bodan

Ministers to the World  
Associate Pastor  
Organist/Accompanist  
Deacon in Charge  
Deacons  
Ushers  
Videographer

\*\*\*\*\*

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott  
Sara L. Phelps  
Larissa Riley  
Melissa Lewis

Senior Pastor  
Director of Music  
Director of Youth Ministries  
Nursery Attendant

**FLOOR CLEANING:** The vestry and nursery are closed today due to our annual floor waxing. The community room will be closed this coming week while that floor is being waxed.

The Trustees of the Facility are asking for help today and next Sunday, August 3, to move furniture in and out of these rooms for this floor waxing. Work will begin immediately after worship.

**END OF SUMMER BBQ:** Save the date of Sunday, **August 24, 2:00 p.m.** and join us for some end of summer fun at the Dart family's lake house on Baboosic Lake in Amherst. The Darts will provide burgers, hot dogs and corn. Please bring a side dish, a salad, or a dessert to share, and your own beverages.

Questions? Contact Meredith Dart (m\_getler@hotmail.com or 603-305-9065).

**SHARE FOOD PANTRY** requests for July include canned ham, canned meats/tuna/chicken, mac and cheese, pasta (all sorts), Progresso and Chunky soups . Donations may be left in our new SHARE collection container in the vestry. Many thanks for your continuing support!

### SPECIAL MUSIC NOTE:

#### *Just a Closer Walk With Thee*

The author is unknown. Circumstantial evidence strongly suggested it dated back to southern African-American churches of the nineteenth century, possibly even prior to the Civil War, as some personal African American histories recall "slaves singing as they worked in the fields a song about walking by the Lord's side." Songwriter Kenneth Morris collected the song from a station porter he crossed paths with on a train trip. He added a few lyrics and made a good arrangement and published it in 1940. The original sheet music had this notation at the top, "as sung by Porter William B. Hurst of Kansas City, MO."

The title and lyrics of the song allude to the Biblical passage from 2 Corinthians 5:7 which states, "We walk by faith, not by sight" and James 4:8, "come near to God and He will come near to you." (Wikipedia)

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

Sunday, July 27, 2025

# Words on a Penny

