

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



*“There is nothing we can do to make God love us more.  
There is nothing we can do to make God love us less.”*

— Philip Yancey

# 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."*

August 3, 2025

Eighth 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

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

John Hughes/  
Don Hustad

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

based on Psalm 23

One: In the darkest valley,

**Many: at the banquet table;**

One: in the hard work of life,

**Many: in the moments of ease;**

One: in our day-to-day reality,

**Many: at times like this—**

One: this time we've set aside –

**Many: for worship, for listening, for paying attention;**

One: with every step we take:

**Many: our cups overflow,**

One: and goodness and mercy follow us,

**Many: all the days of our lives.**

\*HYMN

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

No. 276

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

*The congregation may be seated.*

God of green pastures and still waters,  
through light and shadow you lead us and we follow,  
through the ins and outs,  
the ups and downs of these days,  
when our hearts are hurting,  
when our spirits are rejoicing,  
when we can barely put one foot in front of the other,  
still you beckon us on...  
when we stumble you support us,  
when we can go no further you carry us,  
through light and shadow,  
in death's dark vale,  
and on the mountain peaks you lead us,  
and we follow,  
knowing we never walk alone...

May we feel your Spirit walking beside us now, O God, as we pray the words that Jesus taught us:

**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.**

ANTHEM

*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*  
Sara Phelps, soloist

J.S. Bach

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON Hosea 11:1-11

When Israel was a child, I loved him,  
and out of Egypt I called my son.  
The more I called them,  
the more they went from me;  
they kept sacrificing to the Baals  
and offering incense to idols.

Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk;  
I took them up in my arms,  
but they did not know that I healed them.  
I led them with cords of human kindness,  
with bands of love.  
I was to them like those  
who lift infants to their cheeks.  
I bent down to them and fed them.

They shall return to the land of Egypt,  
and Assyria shall be their king,  
because they have refused to return to me.  
The sword rages in their cities;  
it consumes their oracle priests  
and devours because of their schemes.  
My people are bent on turning away from me.  
To the Most High they call,  
but he does not raise them up at all.

How can I give you up, Ephraim?  
How can I hand you over, O Israel?  
How can I make you like Admah?  
How can I treat you like Zeboiim?  
My heart recoils within me;  
my compassion grows warm and tender.  
I will not execute my fierce anger;  
I will not again destroy Ephraim,  
for I am God and no mortal,  
the Holy One in your midst,  
and I will not come in wrath.

They shall go after the Lord,  
who roars like a lion;  
when he roars,  
his children shall come trembling from the west.  
They shall come trembling like birds from Egypt  
and like doves from the land of Assyria,  
and I will return them to their homes, says the Lord.

SERMON

“In the Hands of a Loving God”

\*HYMN

*Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us*

insert

## 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 the pastor during the hymn after the sermon, and will be shared during Joys and Concerns.*

## ORGAN RESPONSE

## INVITATION TO SHARE OUR OFFERINGS

## OFFERTORY MUSIC

*Moment of Truth*

Esther Megargel

\*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)

**God of love, you abide with us; you provide for all our needs and guide us in your ways. Out of gratitude for your care we bring our gifts before you. Use them for your work of your church, that all may feast at the table of abundance. May our gifts reflect our trust in your care. May our offerings show our willingness to love as you love. Amen.**

## SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

*We welcome all people to join in receiving this sacrament.  
Children may participate at the discretion of their parents.*

## INVITATION AND CALL TO COMMUNION

One: On this day of sabbath, we gather at God's table,  
where divine light breaks through our human understanding.

**Many: At this table, we are invited 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.

**Many: We come to this table not only to be nourished, but to be transformed.**

One: So come now to this table that has been prepared for you.  
Come not because you must, but because you may.

**Many: For here, all are welcome to share in God's love and bounty!**

## 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

*Now We Pray to the Holy Spirit*

Wilhelm Volckmar

*Andante*

P. Tottenham Lucas

COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

**We give thanks, loving God, for this communal meal that links us to all who have called upon your name. May your wisdom grow within us. May your word inspire us. May the nourishment of this bread and cup strengthen us for the journey, as you send us out into the world as people of courage, compassion, and commitment. Amen.**

\*HYMN

*Comfort, Comfort You My People*

No. 3

\*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

\*ORGAN RESPONSE

\*POSTLUDE

*Festal March*

James Mansfield

*(\*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 Joanna Harader and posted on Spacious Faith  
<https://spaciousfaith.com/>  
and by Sally at Eternal Echoes  
[http://sallysjourney.typepad.com/sallys\\_journey/](http://sallysjourney.typepad.com/sallys_journey/)*

# 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 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***

Sunday, August 3, 2025

## PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Doug Topliffe

Sally Hooper, Liz MacMillan, John Swanson

Paul Schellenberg

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Deacons

Videographer

\*\*\*\*\*

Rev. Charlotte E. Y. Bell

Larissa Riley

Melissa Lewis

Associate Pastor

Director of Youth Ministries

Nursery Attendant

**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](mailto:m_getler@hotmail.com) or 603-305-9065).

**SHARE FOOD PANTRY** requests for August include canned fruit, flour, sugar, coffee and tea, juice, instant rice, cold cereal, instant oatmeal packets, individually wrapped snacks. Donations may be left in our new SHARE collection container in the vestry. Many thanks for your continuing support!

**SPIRE ARTICLES DUE:** *Spire* notices and articles to be published in the September newsletter are due to Andrea in the office no later than August 15.

### Our Church Calendar

**August 3—9, 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
Monday—Friday	9:00 a.m.	Vacation Bible School
Tuesday	5:00 p.m.	Church Council
	7:00 p.m.	Trustees of the Facility

# Books of the Bible

