

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



*“What is the real origin of my own anger? Is it the ego defending its territory,  
or is it something that has its source in the desire for the well-being of all?”*

— Jean-Yves Leloup

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

March 7, 2021

Third Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

*Chorale Prelude on "Heinlein"  
(Forty Days and Forty Nights)*

Beatrice A. Miller

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP and THE LORD'S PRAYER

People of God, what do we seek  
as we gather to worship?

**A love that never ceases,  
A creativity that designed the universe,  
A hope that cannot be quenched,  
A pursuit of healing and reconciliation:  
These are the things that are of God.**

In this season of Lent, as we make our way to cross,  
we remember the steps that led Christ there:

**Anger, betrayal and fear,  
but also trust in God, love for humanity,  
and the promise of new life.**

In this season of Lent, as we make our way to the cross,  
we strive to follow Christ's example:

**To admit that anger, betrayal and fear are part of life.  
To embrace trust in God, love for humanity,  
and the promise of a new life.**

**Let us continue our journey,  
and let us worship God.**

Gracious and loving God, we recognize your Spirit moving among us now,  
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.**

LENTEN PRAYER OF CONFESSION and WORDS OF ASSURANCE (unison)

Jesus flipped over the tables of the moneychangers in anger  
and we cringe or turn away.  
Because it is not how we would behave in God's house.  
We prefer things to be ordered, predictable, and peaceful.

Truth be told, O God,  
There are lots of tables that need overturning  
in our lives;  
Beneath the veneer of respectability  
the tidy rows and neat regulations  
hide dark addictions and angry judgments  
hungry greeds and heartless rejections

We know the pain—and so do those around us—  
of keeping up the facade;  
What a relief it would be to have it all  
upset, smashed, scattered, destroyed

So, come Holy Spirit, come.  
pay us a visit here today  
and help us to radically rearrange  
the furniture of our lives.

Hear our prayers, forgiving God,  
as you remind us of the grace that covers our human failings  
and offer us the endurance to continue on this journey,  
as you create us anew.  
Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

HYMN

*More Love to Thee, O Christ*

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

SERMON

"Righteous Anger"

ANTHEM

*Pie Jesu* from *Requiem*  
Sara Phelps, soprano  
Michael Havay, organ

Gabriel Fauré

Blessed Jesus, Lord, I pray in Thy mercy, grant them everlasting life.

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

O God, who has given us a vision of your will and your purposes, help us to use the resources we dedicate here to accomplish the work you would have us do. With joy, we bring the fruits of our labor, the work of our hands, the days of our lives for your special blessing. Send your Spirit into our midst to consecrate us anew in your service. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BREAKING OF THE BREAD, POURING OF THE CUP

CONSECRATING PRAYER

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison)

We give thanks, loving God, for the bond of this ritual and 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.

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

*O God of Earth and Altar*

Lani Smith

***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  
John van de Laar, posted on Sacredise, and from  
Beth Merrill Neel, posted on Hold Fast To What is Good.***

***The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:***



March 14: Numbers 21:4-9  
*Fourth Sunday in Lent* Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
Ephesians 2:1-10  
John 3:14-21

March 21: Jeremiah 31:31-34  
*Fifth Sunday in Lent* Psalm 51:1-12 or  
Psalm 119:9-16  
Hebrews 5:5-10  
John 12:20-33



**THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AMHERST**  
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.

Here’s how to reach us: by telephone 673-3231, or by email [info@ccamherst.org](mailto:info@ccamherst.org). If we are unavailable by phone, 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 at Facebook.com/ccamherst.

**Current Reopening Information:** Are you wondering where things stand? Through the members section on our website, we have a page dedicated to communicating with our church family on both current policies and procedures for use of the building during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the progress of our ad hoc Reopening Team. Documents will be posted as they are made available. If you have any questions or concerns about any of this information, please reach out to any member of the team: Pastor Maureen Frescott, Jessica Greer, Pastor Kate Kennedy, Keith Lammers, Susan Manchester, Kathy Skoglund, Paul Spiess, Kate Thompson, Doug Topliffe, Sue Werst, Tom Werst.

***Grounded in God’s Love—Serving Neighbors Near and Far—Welcoming to All***

## PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Crystal Chen

Kate Thompson

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Liturgist

Offertory

**EASTER OUTREACH:** Each year the Diaconate passes a basket during worship to collect donations for gift cards/food baskets for families in our community to help provide a holiday meal and ongoing food support. We are "passing our Easter basket" virtually this year and the need is high for many during these stressful times. If you know of anyone within our community who may need support, please encourage them to contact Pastor Maureen or Pastor Kate. Serving our neighbors is a vital part of our ministry, and the pastors are there to help with the strictest of confidence.

Donate to the deacon's Easter outreach through our website or by sending a check to the church with 'Easter Outreach' in the memo line.

**EASTER LILY PLANTS** will be arranged at the base of the altar, as has been our tradition for many years, even though this year's service will be virtual. About a dozen double lily plants are needed.

If you would like to donate a plant, please contact Anne Krantz at [Annekrantz@comcast.net](mailto:Annekrantz@comcast.net) or 673-9684. Your Easter or memorial message will be listed in the bulletin, and the plants will be yours to take home after the service is recorded.

Plants are \$12 each and orders are due Palm Sunday, March 28. Please make your check payable to the Congregational Church of Amherst, with Easter lily noted on the memo line.

**FEELING CONNECTED??** Join us **TODAY** for a Zoom forum! There is much to be celebrated about 2020 and early 2021, despite the challenges of COVID-19! As detailed in the recent Good News letter from Stewardship, "we pivoted...extended our reach...kept going....[and] we are THE CHURCH in the World!"

All this is due to the energy, dedication, and creativity of our staff, our church volunteers, and of course your financial support. As we plan for our next fiscal year which starts June 1, we need your input and continued support. Stewardship is sponsoring informal discussions via Zoom. These small groups will allow us to hear about programming plans, updates on the capital campaign, to ask questions and offer input to the team, and most importantly, to be connected!

Sign up using this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040e48a8ac2aa4ff2-feeling>.

Here are the upcoming dates and times: Sunday, Mar. 7 at 11:30 a.m., and Thursday, Mar. 11 at 7:00 p.m. We are using the same Zoom link we have for our Sunday morning Fellowship time. It was sent by email and can also be found in the members section of our website.

*Sunday, March 7, 2021*

## CHURCH SCHOOL

***The Lord's Prayer*** (Matthew 6:5-15) - Jesus taught the disciples to pray, acknowledging God's reign in heaven and on Earth, asking God for what he needed daily, asking God for forgiveness, while forgiving others. Asking God to remind him what was right and wrong, and yet all belongs to God. **Forgive often**, and remember the Five Finger Prayer.



## Our Church Calendar

March 7—13, 2021

Most 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
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship
	11:30 a.m.	Feeling Connected
	11:30 a.m.	Small Group Ministry
	4:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	Woman's Association
	7:00 p.m.	Trustees of the Facility
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Men's Fellowship
	1:30 p.m.	Small Group Ministry
	6:00 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	4:00 p.m.	Communications Team
	6:30 p.m.	Lenten Book Series
Thursday	5:00 p.m.	Reopening Team
	7:00 p.m.	Feeling Connected