

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



*"Sticks in a bundle are unbreakable."*

—Kenyan Proverb

# 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 4, 2024

Eleventh 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

*They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love*

Peter Scholtes,  
arr. Lani Smith

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

One: We come together in gratitude for all who are here, and all who are not;

**Many: For all who have ever walked through our doors,  
for those who may yet find this spiritual home,  
and for those we can't even yet imagine.**

One: For each of us and for us all, may this time of worship offer warmth and light.

**Many: Come, let us worship together.**

\*HYMN

*Gather Us In*

Marty Haugen

Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away,  
See in this space our fears and our dreaming, brought here to You in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
Call to us now and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery, we are the old who yearn for Your face,  
We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty, gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away,  
But here in this place the new light is shining, now is the Kingdom, now is the day.  
Gather us in, and hold us forever, gather us in, and make us Your own;  
Gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

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

*The congregation may be seated.*

One: Spirit of life and love, we have gathered here in search of answers to hard questions.

All: **We have come in search of understanding, in search of community.  
We have come in search of hope and healing.**

*Silence for reflection.*

Sung Response:

**Gathered here in the mystery of this hour,  
Gathered here in one strong body,  
Gathered here in the struggle and the power,  
Spirit draw near.**

One: Gracious and loving God, open our hearts fully to You now as we offer the prayer Jesus taught us, saying together...

All: **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.**

\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Good Morning*

Max Frost

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 17:20-23, 26

“I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

SERMON

“That They May All Be One”

\*HYMN

*Blue Boat Home*  
(Tune: HYFRYDOL)

Peter Mayer

Though below me I feel no motion  
Standing on these mountains and plains  
Far away from the rolling ocean  
Still my dry land heart can say

I've been sailing all my life now  
Never harbor nor port have I known  
The wide universe is the ocean I travel  
And the Earth is my blue boat home

Sun, my sail and moon, my rudder  
As I ply the starry sea  
Leaning over the edge in wonder  
Casting questions into the deep

Drifting here with my ship's companions  
All we kindred pilgrim souls  
Making our way by the lights of the heavens  
In our beautiful blue boat home

I give thanks to the waves upholding me  
Hail the great winds urging me on  
Greet the infinite sea before me  
Sing the sky my sailor's song

I was born upon the fathoms  
Never harbor or port have I known  
The wide universe is the ocean I travel  
And the Earth is my blue boat home

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

ORGAN RESPONSE

SHARING OUR OFFERINGS

\*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)

**Loving and Creating God, as You have given so generously to us, so do we give generously to others, *that all may be one*. Guide us, we pray, that we might be worthy to be called builders of Your Kin-dom here on earth. 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: Peace be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**Many: We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord God.

**Many: It is good that we do.**

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Holy God, we know that in so many ways we have run from You, ignored Your call, closed our eyes to Your presence, disbelieved Your mercy, disregarded Your words, belittled ourselves, and forsaken others.

So we ask, once again, for Your forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection.*

- One: We ask You to stay with us as we turn away from what is wrong and hurtful to what is bright and life-giving.
- All: **When we are weary, O God, give us bread for the journey.  
When we are complacent, set a fire in our bellies.  
When we are frightened, put courage in our hearts and hands.  
When we are angry, turn our anger into faithful response.  
When we are bewildered, O God, help us to see and follow You.  
When we stray, turn us around.  
When we fail, give us another chance.  
When we miss the mark, encourage us to try again.**
- One: Loving God, it is through Your goodness that we have this bread and wine to share, which earth has given and human hands have made. In the sharing of this bread, may we know Your resurrection presence, and may we know that, in touching all bread, all matter, it is You that we touch.
- All: **What we do here is celebrate the life that Jesus has shared with his community through the centuries and shares now with us. Made one with Jesus our Christ and thus one with another, let us offer these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.**
- One: Therefore, with the whole realm of nature around us, with earth, sea and sky, we sing to You. With the angels of light who envelop us, with the saints before and beside us, with sisters and brothers, east and west, we sing to You beloved God.  
And with our loved ones, separate from us now, yet who in this mystery are close to us, we join in the song of Your unending greatness.
- All: **In the strength Christ gives we offer ourselves to you, giving thanks that You have called us to serve You. Amen.**

#### 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. 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. Beginning with those seated at the front of the church, communicants will go down the center aisle, receive communion by intinction, and return to their seats via the outer aisles.*

#### ORGAN MEDITATION

*O Perfect Love*

Joseph Barnby/Robert J. Powell

*Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*

John B. Dykes/Roy M. Darley

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison)

**We give thanks, almighty God, that You have refreshed us at Your table by granting us the presence of Your Son Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*HYMN

*This Little Light / Shine*

This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine (x's 3)  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Give me a word, Give me a sign  
Show me where to look  
Tell me what will I find...will I find

Lay me on the ground, Fly me in the air  
Show me where to look  
Tell me what will be there...will be there.

Ohhh, heaven let your light shine down (x's 4)

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine (x's 3)  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Love is in the water, love is in the air  
Show me where to love  
Tell me will love be there...love be there.

Teach me how to speak, teach me how to share  
Teach me where to go  
Tell me will love be there...will love be there.

Ohhh, heaven let your light shine down (x's 4)

All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine (x's 3)  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

\*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*A Tune for Trumpet*

Gilbert M. Martin

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

*Sunday, August 4, 2024*



# 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 will resume on Rally Day, September 8, 2024.
- 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. (In case of rain, we gather in the community room.) Refreshments are offered.
- In the event of an emergency, please remain seated until instructions have been given.

The church office is open for visitors Wednesdays and Fridays 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. Shayna Appel  
 Michael Havay  
 Gail Wiegand  
 Steve Boczenowski, Kathleen Bouchard, Roger Hooper  
 Reid Cunningham, Judi Dunbar  
 Barbara and Ken Wolfe  
 Regina Kinney  
 Tim Wiegand

Ministers to the World  
 Guest Preacher  
 Organist/Accompanist  
 Deacon in Charge  
 Deacons  
 Liturgists  
 Ushers  
 Greeter  
 Videographer

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Rev. Maureen R. Frescott  
 Sara Phelps  
 Larissa Riley

Senior Pastor  
 Director of Music  
 Church School Coordinator

**END OF SUMMER BBQ:** Save the date of Sunday, **August 18** 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 (meredith.dart@astellas.com or 603-305-9066).

**GARDEN FLOWERS:** Fresh cut garden flowers are lovely for simple altar arrangements during the summer. If you can provide a bouquet of cut flowers, or can simply contribute flowers for a bouquet, please contact Sue Stout or Andrea in the church office to schedule a Sunday. Thank you for sharing your flower gardens!

## Our Church Calendar

**August 4—10, 2024**

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	
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	AP Search Team	
	4:30 p.m.	Church Council	
Thursday	4:00 p.m.	Communications	
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	VBS Training	

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

*The prayer of confession is an adaptation of words by Beth Merrill Neel.*