

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



*"When I was young, I admired clever people.
Now that I am old, I admire kind people."*

— Abraham Joshua Heschel

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 11, 2024

Twelfth 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

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

setting by Robert A. Hobby

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: People of God, we are here this morning to celebrate!

Many: To celebrate the many ways our lives are meant to be a reflection of our God.

One: God calls us to love all people as if they were members of our own family,

**Many: for God seeks to weave us into one beloved community,
tearing down all barriers between us.**

One: When we encounter oppression or persecution,
hatefulness or hard-heartedness,

**Many: we are called to respond with love,
which is sincere, steadfast, and liberating.**

One: No matter how weary we become
from our struggles, our setbacks, our service,

**Many: God challenges us to be patient yet persistent,
and to never cease hoping.**

One: Why should we do all these things?

**Many: Because we are God's people,
called to live our lives in a different way,
and to make a difference in the lives of others!**

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

The congregation may be seated.

God our Creator,

you are alive:

**in the singing of birds at dawn,
in the leaves that stir in the afternoon breeze,
in the stars that dance at night.**

Jesus, Brother to us all,

you are here among us:

**in the welcome hug of a friend,
in the cries of a newborn,
in the stillness after a storm.**

Spirit of God,

you make all our places holy:

**the sanctuaries where we gather,
the common ground where we meet our neighbors,
the gardens and green spaces where we seek solitude.**

God in Community, Holy in One,

make us aware of your presence in every moment,

as we pray as Jesus taught us, saying,

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

Standing in the Need of Prayer
VBS Volunteers

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ephesians 4:21-5:2

For surely you have heard about him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus, to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

So then, putting away falsehood, let each of you speak the truth with your neighbor, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Those who steal must give up stealing; rather let them labor, doing good work with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is good for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

SERMON

“Radical Kindness”

*HYMN

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

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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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

For Love is All in All

Carl Simone

*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)

O God of light, our hearts overflow with thanksgiving for the bounty you have entrusted to us. As you have freed us from the chains of selfishness and self-interest, we seek to offer healing to others. We reach out to help, expecting no reward but the satisfaction of sharing what you have so richly entrusted to us. Bless our offering of self and substance, we pray. Amen.

*HYMN

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

No. 372

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

A Charge to Keep I Have

Lowell Mason/
Dan R. Edwards

(*Please rise in body or spirit.)

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

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John Fawcett, 1782; alt.

Gal. 3:28; 6:2; Col. 3:13-15

1 Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our God we come and pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share each oth - er's woes, each oth - er's bur - dens bear,
4 When we are called to part it gives us in - ward pain,

The shar - ing of a com - mon life is like to that a - bove.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
And of - ten for each oth - er flows a sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

An English Baptist minister, John Fawcett published a number of poetic works. His entire ministry was spent at a church near Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire, where he wrote most of his hymns to follow his sermons.

Tune: DENNIS S.M.
Melody by Johann G. Nägeli (c. 1768-1836)
Adapt. Lowell Mason, 1845

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. 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
 Michael Havay
 Steve Boczenowski
 Russ Demarest, John Swanson
 Steve Boczenowski
 Deb Boczenowski, Sheryl Gottwald
 Kathleen Bouchard, Christie Gould
 Andrea Cyr

Ministers to the World
 Senior Pastor
 Organist/Accompanist
 Deacon in Charge
 Deacons
 Liturgist
 Ushers
 Greeters
 Videographer

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!

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for August include condiments, cooking sauces and seasonings, cooking oil, pasta sauce, tomato sauce, tomato paste, diced tomatoes. Donations should be brought directly to the SHARE Center in Milford; if you are unsure where, please call their office at 673-9898. Many thanks for your continuing support!

Our Church Calendar

August 11—17, 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
Monday	9:00 a.m.	Vacation Bible School <i>Monday through Friday</i>
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	WA Board

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

Sunday, August 11, 2024

