

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



*“The day of my spiritual awakening was the day I saw
and knew I saw all things in God and God in all things.”*

— Mechthild of Magdeburg, 13th Century Christian mystic

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 25, 2024

Fourteenth 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

Ich ruf' zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ

Johann Sebastian Bach

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: Here, in this place, God welcomes us all:

**Many: the dreamers and the doubters,
the worriers and the wanderers,
the fearful and the faithful.**

One: Here, in this place, God welcomes all:

**Many: who dare to step out of comfort into the unknown,
who seek courage in the midst of chaos,
who long for hope in times of despair.**

One: Here, in this place, we celebrate:

**Many: all the ways God offers us comfort, courage, and hope.
Here, in this time, we are reminded
that God is with us, always!**

*HYMN

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

No. 281

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

The congregation may be seated.

**When we feel compelled
to push everything to its limits,
especially you, Great Creator,
it is enough that your grace
can slow us down.**

**When we stand exposed
to the buffeting winds
of our doubts and uncertainties,
it is enough, Healing Servant,
that you clothe us in your peace,
and put our minds at ease.**

**When we are entangled
in a legion of worries and fears
which consume our lives,
it is enough, Spirit of Strength,
that you untie the knots
and set us free.**

**It is enough,
God in Community,
that you are with us in this very 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.**

ANTHEM

Toccata

Johann Pachelbel

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord, in the pillar of fire and cloud, looked down on the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

SERMON

"God of Rainbows and Fiery Pillars"

*HYMN

Open My Eyes That I May See

No. 324

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

Prayer Ascending to the Throne of God

Paul Taylor

SHARING OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Invocation

Tom Birchwood

*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)

Receive these gifts, O God, and help us to use them to manifest your presence in our world: to bring a message of hope to those who cannot imagine a future free from despair, to bring a message of love to those who cannot imagine what it is to feel your embrace, to bring a message of forgiveness to those who cannot imagine grace is meant for them. In the name of the One who is both gift and giver we pray. Amen.

*HYMN

In the Midst of New Dimensions

insert

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

How Firm a Foundation

Steven Scott

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

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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

Sandra LaBarge-Neumann

Steve Boczenowski

Russ Demarest, John Swanson

Lee Bowley

Patricia Bodan

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Guest Organist

Deacon in Charge

Deacons

Liturgist

Videographer

RALLY DAY IS SEPTEMBER 8! We hope you will be with us as we celebrate the start of our new church program year. Church school resumes and the Chancel Choir will be back singing in worship.

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!

NO FALL GOOD STUFF SALE: The Woman's Association will not be holding a Good Stuff Sale this Fall. The next sale will tentatively be held on May 2 & 3, 2025. Unfortunately, due to storage limitations, we will not be able to accept any donations for that sale until sometime after the new year. Details about what, when, and where to donate items to next spring's Good Stuff Sale will appear in church publications in early 2025.

Our Church Calendar

August 25—31, 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

Sunday, August 25, 2024

The Israelites were set free and left Egypt. Pharaoh was angry and chased them. By the power of God, **Moses parted the sea**, and the Israelites escaped. Find 15 fish as the Israelites cross the sea on dry ground.

