

**First Congregational Church**  
United Church of Christ  
3 Gray Road, North Yarmouth, Maine 04097  
Organized in 1806



**The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**July 23, 2023 ~ 9:30 a.m.**

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**Welcome. We pray that you may be blessed through our worship and fellowship today. We cordially invite you to join us for fellowship and refreshments following worship.**

\* Those who are able may stand. **CH** refers to the ***Chalice Hymnal***. Note: Hymns and songs are licensed under One License #A-73187 and CCLI #48404708

**We Gather to Worship God**

**Prelude**                                      **Sonata OP 81 3<sup>rd</sup> Movement**                                      **L. van Beethoven**

**All Sing: God welcomes all! Strangers and friends!**

**God's love is strong! And it never ends!**

Words: John L. Bell; Music: Trad. South African melody

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**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

**Romans 8:14-17, 24-25**

Pastor: All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

People: **We did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but we have received a spirit of adoption.**

Pastor: When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God;

People: **And if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.**

Pastor: For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?

People: **But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.**

**\*Hymn – *My Hope Is Built***

**CH # 537**

Words: Edward Mote; Music: William B. Bradbury

**My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.**

**I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

**On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.**

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace.  
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil  
On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood.  
When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.

When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be  
found! Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before  
the throne!  
On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.

#### Scripture Reading

Psalm 139:1-14, 23-24

Pastor: O LORD, you have searched me and known me.  
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.  
You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.  
Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O LORD, you know it completely.  
You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.

People: **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

Pastor: Where can I go from your spirit?  
Or where can I flee from your presence?  
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;  
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.  
If I take the wings of the morning  
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,  
even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me fast.  
If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
and the light around me become night,"

even the darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.

People: **For it was you who formed my inmost parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.  
I am fearfully and wonderfully made.**

**Wonderful are your works, as I know very well.**

Pastor: Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my thoughts.

People: **See if there is any wicked way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.**

**+ Silent Prayers of Confession +**

**Words of Assurance**

**\*Passing the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you. — Response: **And also with you.**

**The Good News – *Weeds, Seeds & Yeast*  
Matthew 13:24-43**

Pastor Paul Day

**\*Hymn – *In the Bulb There Is a Flower***

**CH # 638**

Words: Natalie Sleeth © 1986 Hope Publishing Co.

**In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until season, something God alone can see.**

## **Prayers of the People**

### **The Lord's Prayer (in unison)**

**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 Offering of Our Gifts and Ourselves to God**

God created a world of wonder and bestows abundant blessings. May we receive God's blessings with grace and gratitude. May we turn from the perception of scarcity and generously share our resources.

### **Offertory**

### **A Sad Story Which End Happily**

**W. Rebikoff**

**\*Doxology: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

### **\*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)**

**Bless us and our gifts, O Lord, that we may provide of refuge for those in need, and quietly build your kingdom where "the righteous will shine like the sun." We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

### **\*Hymn – *When All Is Ended* – vv. 1, 3, 5 & 6**

**CH # 703**

Words: Brian Wren; © 1989 Hope Publishing Co.; Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams

- 1. When all is ended, time and troubles past,  
Shall all be mended, sin and death outcast?  
In hope we sing, and hope to sing at last:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**
- 3. Against all hope, our weary times have known  
wars ended, peace declared, compassion shown,  
Great days of freedom, tyrants over thrown:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**5. With earthy faith we sing a song of heaven:  
all life fulfilled, all loved, all wrong forgiven.  
Christ is our sign of hope, for Christ is risen:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**6. With all creation, pain and anger past,  
evil exhausted, love supreme at last  
alive in God, we'll sing an unsurpassed  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**\*Charge and Benediction**

“The Gospel is less about how to get into the kingdom of heaven after you die, and more about how to live in the kingdom of heaven before you die.”  
Dallas Willard

Live as children of the kingdom, be the “leaven in the lump” of the world around you. And may you shine like the sun in God’s kingdom—now and in the age to come. Amen.

**Postlude**

**Bluette**

**S.D. Froes**

**We Go Forth to Serve God and Our Neighbors**

## Staff

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Paul A. Day  
Administrative Assistant: Lyn Glassock  
Organist: Peter Dickson  
Organist: Jesse Myers-Wakeman  
Choir Director: David Myers-Wakeman  
Sexton: Mark R. H. Heath  
Treasurer: Liz McGlinn, CPA, CGMA

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Pastor Day's phone: 207 712-9896  
Pastor Day's email: [revpaulday@gmail.com](mailto:revpaulday@gmail.com)

Church Website: <http://nyccucc.com>  
Maine Conference Website: [www.maineucc.org](http://www.maineucc.org)  
YouTube: [youtube.com/c/nyccucc](https://youtube.com/c/nyccucc)

Note: This service is recorded and streamed on YouTube.

If you are not receiving church emails and would like to, please send an email to [nyarmouthccucc@gmail.com](mailto:nyarmouthccucc@gmail.com) asking to be added to the list. Like the NYCC FB page and you will be notified of what is happening there, too!

Offerings can also be made online at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1301940> or text "Give" to 833-751-0314.

### **THIS WEEK\***

Today 10:30 am, Coffee Hour

Tue. 10:00 am, Tuesday Gals

**Next Lord's Day – July 30 – The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

9:30 am, Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall

### **IN OUR PRAYERS\***

**Congregation & Community:** Terri Bickford, Candy & Ron Burgess, Diana Day, Sandra & Vince Golonka, Wayne Malloch, Blanche Mays, Cindy Thompson, Nicki & David Myers, Sr.

**Pilgrim Lodge:** 23rd—to 29th, *Destination Hogwarts*, Gr. 4-10;  
and 29<sup>th</sup>—31st, *Grandparents & Grandchildren 5*, ages 5 & up

**Nation & World:** Disabilities Awareness; Peace in Ukraine and all places of conflict; gun violence; adequate and appropriate shelter for those who are unhoused.

\*Please submit items for the Church Calendar or the Prayer List to Pastor Day or Lyn Glassock by Tuesday in order to be included in the bulletin. Thank You.