

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



The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 19, 2023 ~ 9:30 a.m.
The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 17, 2023 ~ 9:30 a.m.

We Gather to Worship God

Prelude

Two Pieces on St. George's Windsor

A. Bullard/H. Balcombe

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

One: We come to give thanks and praise to God

Many: May we be filled with gratitude

One: We come to find the gifts of the Spirit

Many: May we see God's generosity

One: Let us share our gifts with one another

Many: Let us celebrate the bountiful Spirit

All: Come Let Us Worship Together.

Silent Grounding Prayer

***Passing the Peace**

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

***Hymn**

Gracious Spirit Dwell with me

CH #266

Words: Thomas T. Lynch, 1855, alt.

Music: Charles F. Gounod, 1872; harm. A. Eugene Ellsworth, 1994

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me: I myself would gracious be,
and with words that help and heal, would thy life in mine reveal,
and with actions bold and meek, would for Christ my Savior speak.

Truthful Spirit, dwell with me: I myself would truthful be;
and with wisdom kind and clear, let thy life in mine appear;
and with actions lovingly, mirror Christ's sincerity.

Silent Spirit, dwell with me: I myself would silent be,
quiet as the growing blade, which through earth its way has made,
silently, like morning light, putting mists and chills to flight.

Mighty Spirit, dwell with me: I myself would mighty be;
mighty so as to prevail where unaided I would fail;
ever by a mighty hope, pressing on and bearing up.

Holy Spirit, dwell with me: I myself would holy be;
break from sin, and choose the good,
cherish what my Savior would, and whatever I can be,
give to God who gave me thee!

Scripture Reading

Hebrew Scripture: Proverbs 22: 1-9

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25: 14-30

+ Silent Prayers of Confession +

Words of Assurance

Choir Anthem –Celtic Laud / Craig Courtney Jesse Myers-Wakeman on Flute

Time with God's Children

Message

Rev. Zeb Green

***Hymn**

Take My Gifts

CH #381

Words: Shirley E. Murray, 1988; Music: Colin Gibson, 1988

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me, gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free. Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away, now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!

Take the fruit that I have gathered from the tree your Spirit sowed, harvest of your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God, spiced with humor, laced with laughter--flavor of the Jesus life, tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief.

Take whatever I can offer--gifts that I have yet to find,
skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind, things made
beautiful for others in the place where I must be: take my gifts and let me love
you, God who first of all loved me.

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

Offertory

I'll Fly Away

A. Brumley/J. Raney

Duet by David Myers-Wakeman and Jesse Myers-Wakeman

***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)**

Beloved God, We give thanks for these gifts today. We give thanks for all
our blessings. We dedicate this offering to You and Your service. We promise to
spread Your love and peace far and wide. Amen.

***Hymn**

Pass It On

CH #477

Words and Music" Kurt Kaiser, 1969

It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
and soon all those around can warm up in the glowing;
that's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it:
you spread God's love to everyone you want to pass it on.

What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees are budding,
and birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming;
that's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it:
you want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.

I wish for you my friend, this happiness that I've found-
on God you can depend, it matters not where you're bound;
I'll shout it from the mountain top, I want my world to know:
the Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

A Trumpeting

E. Broughton

We Go Forth to Serve God and Our Neighbors

* Those who are able may stand.

Staff

Interim Pastor: Rev. Zeb Green
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

Church Phone: 829-3644
Church e-mail: nyarmouthccucc@gmail.com

Church Website: <http://nyccucc.com>
Maine Conference Website: www.maineucc.org
YouTube: 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 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

Thursday, November 23 – Thanksgiving Day – Church Closed

IN OUR PRAYERS*

Congregation & Community:

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

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