

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



**The Third Sunday of Advent**  
**December 17th, 2023 ~ 9:30 a.m.**

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**We Gather to Worship God**

**Prelude**

**All Sing: Gather in joy, people of God. Sing the Advent song!**  
**Song of faith, song of trust, a song to welcome the Christ.**

**Welcome and Announcements**

Call to Worship

One: Blessed Advent, Season of Preparation

Many: Season of Joy

One: The Angels rejoice, playing their trumpets and singing glory to God

Many: May our hearts be filled with joy

One: The Shepherds heard the good news and found the child in the manger

Many: May we celebrate the coming of Christ

All: Joy Be with us, Let Us Worship Together

**Silent Grounding Prayer**

**\*Passing the Peace**

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

**\*Hymn**

**Lovely Star in the Sky**

**CH #175**

Words: Adapted from a Korean hymn by Reginald Heber

Music: Un-Yung La (Korea)

Lovely star in the sky, banishing the night,  
shine down and hallow us, light up our path.  
Star shining in the East, be our true guide;  
lead us to Bethlehem, where the child lies.

Royal child lying there, manger for a bed,  
with all the animals sleeping in hay;  
Angels sing rev'rently, worship the child,  
lowly in majesty, ruler of all.

What can we do to show our devotion true?  
Shall we present to him sweet smelling gifts:  
Far mountain's frank-in-sense, sandalwood, myrrh?  
Shall it be precious gold, pearls from the sea?

None of these things of price would give Jesus joy;  
how then will we express thanks for his birth?  
One present, one alone, Christ would desire:  
love from our deepest heart, our own best love.

### **Scripture Reading**

Hebrew Scriptures: Isaiah 44: 22- 45:1

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2: 1-12

### **Lighting the Advent Candle - Joy**

We light the second candle, the candle of Joy

With this candle, we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

We remember the joyful music. Angels proclaiming peace on Earth and goodwill to all.

In the words of the Prophet Isaiah,

"All people will be gathered on the sacred mountain and they shall rejoice in the house of prayer. All will be welcome to pray at the altar. For God's House shall be called a House of Prayer for All People."

**Choir Anthem – *Jus' a little Farther to Go – arr. Conway Bolt***

### **Time with God's Children**

#### **Message**

**Rev. Zeb Green**

#### **\*Hymn**

#### **We Three Kings**

**CH #172**

Words and Music: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,  
west-ward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.

*O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,  
west-ward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

Frank incense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high.

*O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,  
west-ward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

*O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,  
west-ward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

Glorious now behold him arise; Christ and God and sacrifice;  
Alleluia, alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.

*O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,  
west-ward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

## **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**

**\*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**

**In Christ There is No East or West**

**CH# 687**

Words: John Oxenham, 1908, alt. ; Music: Alexander R. Reinagle c. 1830

In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,  
but one community of love through-out the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;  
his service is the golden cord close-binding human kind.

Join hands, disciples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be;  
all children of the living God are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west in him meet south and north;  
all loving hearts are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude**

**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  
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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 – Zeb and Sophia's Baby Shower

Thursday, December 21- Blue Christmas Service (Longest Night) 7pm.

Sunday, December 24 – 9 am – Advent Worship Service

5 pm – Christmas Eve Family Service

11 pm – Lessons and Carols

## **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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