

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



**The First Sunday After Christmas**  
**December 31st, 2023 ~ 9:30 a.m.**

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**We Gather to Worship God**

**Prelude**

**All Sing: Gather in Christ, 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: Praise the Lord. Glory to the highest

Many: We celebrate the presence of Christ amongst us

One: The Magi have departed, the shepherds have returned to their fields

Many: God's presence is still with us.

One: Let us give thanks and raise a joyful noise.

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**

**Come, Christians Join to Sing**

**CH #90**

Words: Christian Henry Bateman, 1843, alt

Music: Traditional Spanish melody; harm. David Evans, 1927

Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!

Loud praise to Christ we bring: Alleluia! Amen!

Let all with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;  
praise we with grateful choice: Alleluia! Amen!

Come lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen!

Let praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!

Christ is our Guide and Friend on whom we can depend;  
his love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again: Alleluia! Amen!  
Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen!  
On heaven's blissful shore his goodness we'll adore,  
singing forever more: Alleluia! Amen!

### **Scripture Reading**

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:22-40

### **+ Silent Prayers of Confession +**

### **Words of Assurance**

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

### **Message**

Rev. Zeb Green

### **\*Hymn**

### **Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven**

**CH #23**

Words: Henry Lyte (1793-1847); Public Domain; adapt. Ecumenical

Women's Center and Ruth Duck, 1974

Tune: John Goss, 1869 Public Domain

Praise, my soul, the God of heaven, glad of heart your carols raise;  
ransomed, healed, restored, for-given, who, like me, should sing God's praise?  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Maker all our days.

Praise to God for grace and favor shown to all who are oppressed.  
God shows steadfast love forever, slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious is God's faithfulness!

Mother like, God tends and spares us, knowing well our fragile frame.  
Father like, God gently bears us, tender hearted, slow to blame.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! All with-in me praise God's name!

Frail as summer's flower we flourish: blows the wind, and it is gone.  
But, while mortals rise and perish, God's compassion still lives on.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the high eternal One!

Angels, teach us adoration you who see God face to face;  
sun and moon and all creation, dwellers all in time and space,  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

## **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**

#### **May the Blessing of God**

**CH# 448**

Words and Music: Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

May the blessing of God go before you.  
May her grace and peace abound.  
May her Spirit live within you.  
May her love wrap you 'round.  
May her blessing remain with you **always**.  
May you walk on holy ground.

## **\*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  
Church e-mail: [nyarmouthccucc@gmail.com](mailto:nyarmouthccucc@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.

### **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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