

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



HOPE

**The First Sunday of Advent
December 1st, 2024 ~ 9:30 a.m.**

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We Gather to Worship God

Prelude

Jesse Myers-Wakeman

All Sing: There is more Hope somewhere
There is more Hope somewhere
I'm gonna keep on 'til I find it
There is more Hope somewhere
- African-American Spiritual

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: This Advent let us remember Mary's Song

All: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior

One: God scatters the proud in the imagination of their hearts

Many: God exalts the lowly, fills the hungry

Many of us think the story, like the title, is about God's remembrance of the faithful servants.

Many: May we prepare the way for God's Love

All: Come. Let us worship together.

Lighting the Advent Candle

Lighting the Advent Candles
We light the first candle, the candle of hope and prophecy

We light the first candle, the candle of hope and prophecy. We remember the promise of good news, freedom, and salvation.

We remember Mary who prepared the way for Jesus.

We remember that God is with us in times of sorrow and struggle

We pledge to tend the light and love of God.

Grounding Prayer

*Passing the Peace

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

***Hymn**

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

CH# 130

Words: Miriam Therese Winter, 1978, 1987

Music: Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music. Part Second. 1813: harm.

Music: Wyeth's Report
Charles H. Webb 1988

My soul gives glory to my God.

My heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.

My god has done great things for me:
yes, holy is her name.
All people will declare me blessed,
and blessings they shall claim.

From age to age, to all who fear,
such mercy love imparts,
dispensing justice far and near,
dismissing selfish hearts.

Love casts the mighty from their thrones,
promotes the insecure,
leaves hungry spirits satisfied,
the rich seem suddenly poor.

Praise God, whose loving covenant
supports those in distress,
remembering past promises
With present faithfulness.

Scripture Readings

Hebrew Scripture: Exodus 2: 1-10

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:13-21

Choir Anthem - Here Comes the Light – from Rhapsody in Bluegrass:
A Christmas Jubilee by Joseph M. Martin

Discipleship for All Ages

Message

Pastor Zeb

***Hymn**

Let Us Break Bread Together

CH# 425

African-American Spiritual; arr. Carleton R. Young, alt.

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Let us break bread together on our knees; let us break bread together on our knees. When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, Have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees; let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, Have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees; let us praise God together on our knees. When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, Have mercy on me.

+ The Sacrament of Holy Communion +

We practice an open communion. All who trust in Jesus Christ and seek to follow God's ways are welcome to share the sacrament. You do not need to be a member of this congregation. Please hold the bread and the cup until all have been served, that we might symbolize our unity in Christ by partaking all at the same time.

Prayer of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

Beloved God,
Gathered at your table, we give our deepest thanks.
May this meal nourish our bodies and nourish our souls.
May this fellowship hold and sustain us.
May we answer the call to prepare the world for you coming Love.
Amen.

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

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**

Blessed Be The God of Israel

CH#135

Words: Michael Perry, 1973; Music: Hall H. Hopson, 1983

Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,
who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.

Now from the house of David a child of grace has come,
a savior who will lead us to our eternal home.
Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.

On all by death imprisoned the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes,
to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace;
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

***Musical Benediction** – Love is Love is Love is Love by Abbie Betinis

Postlude

Jesse Myers-Wakeman

We Go Forth to Serve God and Our Neighbors

*** Those who are able may stand.**

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Zeb Green

Administrative Assistant: Lyn Glasscock

Music Director: David Myers-Wakeman

Organist: Peter Dickson

Organist: Jesse 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>.

THIS WEEK*

Today 10:30 am, Coffee Hour

 Diaconate Meeting following worship

Tuesday, December 3 – 10:00am - Tuesday Gals

Tuesday, November 11 – 10:45am Bylaws Meeting

There will be a Fellowship Hall Rental on Tuesday, December 3 at 6pm.

IN OUR PRAYERS*

Congregation & Community: Sheila Babcock-Pet Pantry Patron, David and Michelle Bickford, Terri Bickford, Candy Burgess, Carol Davis, Sandra and Vince Golonka, Blanche Mays, Rey and Ellen Medrano, Steve Quentel, Lori Martin and Kaitlin Quentel, Susanellen Stearns, Nancy Thomas, Cindy & Bill Tompson, Nancy White

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

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