

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



**The First Sunday After Christmas
December 29th, 2024 ~ 9:30 a.m.**

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We Gather to Worship God

Prelude Christmas Music Peter Dickson

All Sing: God welcomes all! Strangers and friends!
God's love is strong! And it never ends!

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation Pastor Zeb

Call to Worship

One: This Christmas season 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

One: God remembers the faithful servants

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

All: Come, Let us worship together.

Grounding Prayer

*Passing the Peace

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

***Hymn** Rejoice, You Pure in Heart CH #15
Words: Edward H. Plumptre, 1865, alt.; st. 5 Ruth Duck, 1981
Music: Arthur H. Messiter, 1883

Rejoice, you pure in heart; lift praises to the sky;
your festive banner wave with joy, the cross of Christ raise high!
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

Bright youth and snow crowned age, strong souls and spirits meek,
raise high your free, exulting song, God's wondrous praises speak.

Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

With voice as full and strong as ocean's surging praise,
send forth the hymns the saints have loved, the psalms of ancient days.
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

Yes, on through life's long path, still singing as you go,
from youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe.
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

Praise God who rules all worlds; the risen Christ adore.
Praise God the Spirit, Holy Fire, one God for evermore!
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

Scripture Readings

Hebrew Scripture: Psalm 131

Gospel Reading: John 19: 25-27

Prayer for Confession, Release, and Blessing

Discipleship for All Ages

Message

Pastor Zeb

***Hymn** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling CH #517

Words: Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.; Music: John Zundel, 1855

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, thou are all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Breath, O Breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit, let us find thy promised rest;
take away our love of sinning; alpha and omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never, never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be,
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

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 Meditation on “Christe Sanctorum” Lynn Trapp

***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** 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. 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.

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Peter Niedmann

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

Tuesday, December 31 – 10:45 am - Bylaws Meeting

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, The People of North Carolina, The Black Mountain Orphanage.

*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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