

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



**The Fifth Sunday After Epiphany**  
**February 9, 2025 ~ 9:30 a.m.**

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**We Gather to Worship God**

**Prelude**

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

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Invocation**

Rev. Cheryl Anderson

**Call to Worship** (From Psalm 37, *Psalms for Praying*, by Nan Merrill)  
Congregational sung response:

**“Give no heed to those who are greedy. Live in love.”**

**Grounding Prayer**

**God of love, teach us to love. Love is patient; love is kind. Grant us your Spirit when we feel irritable or mean. Love is not jealous or boastful, yet other people's accomplishments can make us feel diminished and we have flaunted our achievements in the presence of others. Your love knows no boundaries. Fill your church this day with the love of Christ that extends across all human divisions. Fill our hearts with the knowledge of our oneness with you and with all beings that we might become unconditional lovers and gladly face every opposition to your inclusiveness, by the power of the Holy Spirit and the name of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.**

**\*Passing the Peace**

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

**\*Hymn**

*Your Ways Are Not Our Own*

CH#170

Words: Lavon Bayler, 1988, rev. 1993; Music: Lowell Mason & G.J. Webb, 1850

Your ways are not our own, O gracious God most high,  
yet we would follow in your paths and on your love rely.

Christ teaches us to bless the ones who curse and harm,  
to turn the other cheek when struck, attackers to disarm.

Yet, we cannot excuse abuse in any form,  
for all are children of your care, and love must be our norm.

How shall we show your love, your pardon to believe?  
You bid us share as we are blessed and give as we receive.

Forgiveness is our joy, receiving, giving, too.  
Keep us from judgments hard and cruel, that we may dwell with you.

## **Gospel Reading**

Leslie Eastman

**Choir Anthem** – *Alleluia! Alleluia!* – Roger Emerson

## **Discipleship for All Ages**

### **Message**

*“Loving People We Don’t Like”*

Rev. Cheryl Anderson

### **\*Hymn**

*Help Us Accept Each Other*

CH #388

Words: Fred Kaan, 1974; alt. Tune: Aurelia, Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;  
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us, and Bring us to believe:  
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life  
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people, for all - not just for some,  
to love them as we find them or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us so that we may be moved  
in living situations to do the truth in love;  
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart  
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

God, for today's encounters with all who are in need,  
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and for bread,  
Bring us new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:  
renew us with your Spirit; God!, free us, make us one!

## **Prayers of the People**

Leader: God, in your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

## **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)

Source of every good and perfect gift, receive these tokens of our lives now offered more fully to your service. Follow them with your blessing that they might do your work in the world. Amen.

### **\*Hymn**

*God of Change and Glory*

CH #177

Words: Al Carmines, 1973; Music: Katerine

God of Change and glory, God of time and space,  
when we fear the future, give to us your grace.  
In the midst of changing ways give us still the grace to praise.

Many gifts, one Spirit, one love known in many ways.  
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise  
one Giver, one Word, one Spirit, one God known in many ways,  
hallowing our days. For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

God of many colors, God of many signs,  
you have made us different, blessing many kinds.  
As the old ways disappear, let your love cast out our fear.

Many gifts, one Spirit, one love known in many ways.  
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise  
one Giver, one Word, one Spirit, one God known in many ways,  
hallowing our days. For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

Freshness of the morning, newness of each night,  
you are still creating endless love and light.  
This we see, as shadows part, many gifts from one great heart.

Many gifts, one Spirit, one love known in many ways.  
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise  
one Giver, one Word, one Spirit, one God known in many ways,  
hallowing our days. For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

**\*Charge**

Leader: Let us leave here with open hearts, to share God's unconditional love with all we meet.

**All: We will go with courage; holding fast to what is good; rendering to no one evil for evil. We will strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, and help the afflicted. Honoring all beings, we will serve God; rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

We Go Forth to Serve God and Our Neighbors

\* Those who are able may stand.

## Staff

Guest Pastor: Rev. Cheryl Anderson  
Administrative Assistant: Lyn Glassock  
Choir 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](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>.

## **TODAY**

Today - 10:30 am, Coffee Hour

11:00 am, Diaconate Meeting / 11:00 am, Faith Formation

Monday, February 10 – Missions meeting via zoom.

Tuesday, February 11 – 10:30 am – Bylaws meeting.

Tuesday, February 11 – Chicken Picking at 1 pm.

Tuesday, February 11 – Trustees meeting at 6pm.

Thursday, February 13 – Council meeting at 6:30 pm.

## **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, Cindy & Bill Tompson, Nancy White, The People of North Carolina, The Black Mountain Orphanage, Southern California

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

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