

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



The First Sunday in Lent
March 9, 2025 ~ 9:30 a.m.

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We Gather to Worship God

Prelude: “Poco Adagio” from Organ Symphony No. 3 Camille Saint-Saens

All Sing: You are welcome here; come as you are.
You are welcome here with open arms.
Bring your burdens, bring your pain,
Bring your sorrow, bring your shame.
You are welcome here; come as you are.
- Words by Chris Muglia; Tune by David Myers-Wakeman

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation

Call to Worship

One: As darkness gives way to light and winter sleep to new beginnings,

All: we come today to be reminded of God’s love for us.

One: Like the green shoots of renewed life stirring beneath the soil,

All: we welcome the awakening of God’s word in our lives.

One: In this time of reflection and repentance,

All: we affirm our identity, we claim our security, as children of God.

- by Gill LeFevre

***Passing the Peace**

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

***Hymn**

Gather Us In

CH#284

Words and music: Marty Haugen, 1981

Here in this place, the new light is streaming, shadows of doubt are vanished away. See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in; our spirits in-flame. Call to us now, and we shall a-waken; we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.

We are the young – our lives are a mystery; we are the old, who yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in the rich and the haughty; gather us in the proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we receive new life in the waters; here we receive the bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us a-new to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not just in build-ings, small and confining, not in some heaven, light years away, here in this place the new light is shining; now is God present, and now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us for-ever; gather us in and make us your own; gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 29: 11-14

Luke 18: 1-8

Choir Anthem – *Come build a Church* – Ken Medema

Discipleship for All Ages

Message

Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola

***Hymn**

What Is This Place

CH #289

Words: Huub Oosterhuis, 1967; tr. David Smith, 1970

Music: Nederlandsche Gedenckclanck, 1626; arr. B. Huijbers, 1967

What is this place where we are meeting?

Only a house, the earth its floor, walls and a roof sheltering people,

Windows for light, an open door. Yet it becomes a boy that lives when we are gathered here, and know our God is near.

Words from afar, stars that are falling, sparks that are sown in us like seed.

Names for our God, dreams, signs, and wonders sent from the past are what we need. We in this place remember and speak again what we have heard: God's free redeeming word.

And we accept bread at this table, broken and shared, a living sign.

Here in this world, dying and living, we are each other's bread and wine.

This is the place where we can receive what we need to increase:

God's justice and God's peace.

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 Total Praise – Richard Smallwood – arr. Doreen Rao Choir

***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 *Renew Your Church* CH #463**

Words: Kenneth L. Cober, 1960, alt. Music: American folk melody, c. 1840

Renew your church, our ministries restore: both to serve and adore.
Make us again as salt throughout the land, and as light from a stand.
'Mid somber shadows of the night, where greed and hatred spread their blight, O
send us forth with power endued. Help us, God, be renewed.

Teach us your word, reveal its truth divine, on our path let it shine.
Tell of your works, your mighty acts of grace, from each page show your face.
As you have sent you Christ to save, in love to triumph o'er the grave, O let our
hearts with love be stirred, help us, God, know your word.

Teach us to pray, for you are ever near, your still voice let us hear.
Our souls are restless 'til they rest in you: Love's design, ever new.
Before your presence keep us still that we may find for us your will
and seek your guidance every day. Teach us, God, how to pray.

Teach us to love, with strength of heart and mind, each and all human kind!
Break down old walls of prejudice and hate, leave us not to our fate.
As you have loved and giv'n your life to end hostility and strife,
O share you grace from heav'n above, teach us, God, how to love.

***Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola

Postlude:

Toccata in C major

J. Pachelbel

We Go Forth to Serve God and Our Neighbors

* Those who are able may stand.

Thank you to our Maine Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola,
for worshipping with us this morning.

Staff

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

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>.

TODAY

Today - 10:30 am, Coffee Hour

Monday, March 10 – 7 pm - Missions meeting via zoom.

Tuesday, March 11 – Bylaws meeting at 10:30 am / Trustees meeting at 6pm.

Thursday, March 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, Linda Lambrides, Blanche Mays, Rey and Ellen Medrano, Steve Quentel, Lori Martin and Kaitlin Quentel, Holly and Charles Slonina, Susanellen Stearns, Cindy & Bill Tompson, Nancy White, The People of North Carolina, The Black Mountain Orphanage, Southern California, Pope Francis.

*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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