

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



**The Third Sunday in Lent**  
**March 23, 2025 ~ 9:30 a.m.**

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**We Gather to Worship God**

**Prelude**                      Prelude in C Minor and Fugue in C Major                      J. S. Bach

**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**

Loving God, our light, our salvation, whom shall we fear?

*Loving God, our light, our salvation, you are the stronghold of life.*

Loving God, our light, our salvation, shelter in every trouble.

*One thing we ask of you God, that we may live in your house all the days of our lives.*

Loving God, come and be home to us.

*Let us worship together!*

**\*Hymn**                      *God of Grace and God of Glory*                      *insert*  
                    Words: Harry E. Fosdick, 1930; alt.; Music: John Hughes, c. 1907

God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power;  
crown your ancient Church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.

From the evils that surround us and assail the Savior's ways,  
From the fears that long have bound us – free our hearts for faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the living of these days.

Cure your children's warring madness; bend our pride to your control.

Shame our reckless, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, make our broken spirits whole, make our broken  
spirits whole.

Set our feet on lofty places; gird our lives that they may be armored with all Christ  
like graces, in the fight to set us free. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, in the quest  
for liberty, in the quest for liberty.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore; let the search for your  
salvation be our glory evermore. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you  
whom we adore, serving you whom we adore.

### **Grounding Prayer**

*Gracious God, may we find ourselves trusting you when the evidence says don't.  
May we find ourselves following you when the world says not to. May we find  
ourselves living with the impossible when everything else says we can't. May we  
hear the promise in our souls, and live it in our world. Amen.*

### **\*Passing the Peace**

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

### **Prayer for Confession, Release, and Blessing**

*Creating God, we have a world broken by prejudice.*

*Forgive the agenda the powerful set in the world that belittles some  
and strengthen others without balance, grace, or justice.*

*We seek your face, O God. Do not hide your truth or your forgiveness from us, O  
God of our salvation. .*

### **Discipleship for All Ages**

#### **Scripture Reading**

Psalm 63:1-8

**Choir Anthem** –*Order My Steps* – Glenn Burleigh – arr. Jack Schrader

#### **Message**

*The Idolotry of Current Events*

Luke 13:1-9

**\*Hymn** *Christ Be Beside Me* (tune: Bunesnan, Morning Has Broken) insert  
James Quinn 1969

Christ beside me, Christ before me,  
Christ behind me, King of my heart;  
Christ within me, Christ below me,

Christ above me never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,  
Christ all around me shield in the strife;  
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,  
Christ in my rising light of my life.

Christ beside me, Christ before me,  
Christ behind me, King of my heart;  
Christ within me, Christ below me,  
Christ above me never to part.

### **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**

Tranquilly

Hubert Parry

**\*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*)

*May the love we have tangled with today, the grace we have woven and the peace we have shared, reflect and belong in your reign, O God.  
Receive these offerings, and all we have touched today, all we have given, all we have known as our giving to your realm. Amen.*

**\*Hymn**

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

*insert*

Words: Elizabeth c. Clephane, 1872; alt; Music: Frederick C. Maker, 1881

Beneath the cross of Jesus, I gladly take my stand,  
The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;  
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,

From the burning of the noon-tide heat, and the burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus within my mind I see  
The very dying form of One who suffered there for me;  
And from my grieving heart with tears two wonders I confess  
The wonders of Christ's glorious love and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of Christ's face;  
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,  
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude**

En Forne de Canon

T. Salome

We Go Forth to Serve God and Our Neighbors

\* Those who are able may stand.

## Staff

Guest Pastor: Rev. Ed DeLong  
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://www.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  
Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday Gals at 10am / Bylaws Meeting at 10:30am.  
Thursday, March 27 – Rental in Fellowship Hall 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, Linda Lambrides, Blanche Mays, Rey and Ellen Medrano, Steve Quentel, Lori Martin and Kaitlin Quentel, Holly and Charles Solina, Susanellen Stearns, Cindy & Bill Thompson, 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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