

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



The Seventh Sunday of Easter
Communion Sunday
June 1, 2025 ~ 9:30 a.m.

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Reverend Cheryl Anderson

Prelude

All Sing: *You are welcome here; come as you are.*
You are welcome here with open arms.
Bring your joys and bring your cares,
Bring the love you have to share.
You are welcome here; come as you are.
-Words by Chris Muglia/Nora Krainis; Tune by David Myers-Wakeman

Welcome and Announcements

Unison Invocation:

You are above us, O God; you are beneath. You are in air; you are in earth.
You are beside us; you are within. O God of heaven, you have made your home
on earth in the broken body of Creation. Kindle within us a love for you in all
things. May life be in our speech and truth in what we say. May we feel Christ's
presence and love among us as we worship.

Call to Worship

Leader: We come to worship the God of compassion, even in the midst of a
world where there is much cruelty.

**People: We gather to proclaim the gospel of love once more, though we
are aware that we often lack the courage to speak words of truth and
love in daily life.**

Leader: By the Spirit of God among us, we are granted courage to walk with
Christ day by day.

**People: We gather as witnesses that God is at work in the midst of human
lives, and that love, not cruelty and fear, will triumph in the end.**

Leader: Let us worship God and be filled with the Spirit of Love.

***Passing the Peace**

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

***Hymn**

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You"

CH # 2

Words: Henry van Dyke, 1907, alt,

Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; arr. Edward Hodges, 1864; desc. Susan Adams,
1995

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
 hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
 Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive our fear and doubt away;
 giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
changing bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou are Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus; stars of morning, take your part;
love divine is reigning o'er us, binding those of tender heart.
Ever singing, move we on-ward, victors in the midst of strife,
joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

Discipleship for All Ages

Scripture **John 17:20-26**

Choir Anthem *This Little Light of Mine* *arr. Neil A. Johnson*

Message

***Hymn** "Help Us Accept Each Other" CH # 487
Words: Fred Kaan, 1974; Music: John Ness Beck, 1977

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.

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

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God, in who we live and move and have our being, your love for all your creation is unconditional. You know our individual strengths and our struggles. You know our kindness and compassion as well as our foibles and our frustrations. You love us all and you love this world of diversity that you created. We confess that we don't always appreciate the diversity, when it disagrees with our point of view, or threatens something that we value. As we share the one bread and cup, may we know ourselves as "one" with you and with all beings. Open our hearts and expand our capacity to love as you love, we pray in Jesus' name. AMEN

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING THE BREAD & THE CUP

THANKSGIVING

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

***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**

***Hymn** “In the Midst of New Dimensions” (Ours the Journey)
 Words and Music: Julian B. Rush, 1979

CH # 458

In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,
who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering their sep'rate ways?
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey now and ever more.

Through the flood of starving peoples, warring factions and despair,
who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey now and ever more.

Though we reach the highest heavens, holding worlds at our command,
we are yet a desert people searching for the promised land.
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey now and ever more.

Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,
may your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again.
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey now and ever more.

***Benediction**

Postlude

We Go Forth to Serve God and Our Neighbors

* Those who are able may stand.

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

Today – Congregational Meeting – Following worship

Tuesday, June 3 – Tuesday Gals meeting at 10am.

Monday, June 10 – Journey Together-Kick Off- 6pm in Fellowship Hall.

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, 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. Note: Hymns and songs are licensed under One License #A-73187 and CCLI #48404708