

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



Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here. — The United Church of Christ

The Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025 ~ 9:30 a.m.

We Gather to Worship God

*Those who are able may stand.

Bold type indicates Congregational Responses

Prelude –

The Lighting of the Altar Candles

9:30 am

Welcome and Announcements

Grounding Prayer

Introit: **Choir:** Come, O come, Emmanuel.

Congregation: Soon a Morning Star will rise.

Choir: Ransom captive Israel.

Congregation: Soon a Morning Star will rise.

(repeat as directed)

Call to Worship

from **Psalm 146**

Pastor: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God.

People: **God made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them.**

Pastor: God keeps faith forever, executes justice for the oppressed, and gives food to the hungry.

People: **The LORD sets the prisoners free, opens the eyes of the blind, and lifts up those who are bowed down.**

Pastor: The LORD loves the righteous, The LORD watches over the strangers and upholds the orphan and the widow.

People: **The LORD will reign forever; our God for all generations.**

*Hymn – *People, Look East*

CH # 142

People, look east, the time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table. People, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there. Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish. People, look east: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosting weather, bright as sun and moon together. People look east: Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Invocation

adapted from ***Worship Ways***

Great Redeemer, too often we allow the idea of absolute happiness to block the existence of joy from our daily lives. Our hopes are crushed under the weight of the world's sorrows, and our peace is disturbed by turmoil without and within. We race toward solutions without pausing to meditate on the greater good. Help us to see your love surrounding us; through Jesus Christ who taught us to pray—

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.
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.**

Passing the Peace

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

Choir Anthem – *Mary Went a-Riding*

- from Rhapsody in Bluegrass: A Christmas Jubilee by Joseph M. Martin

Discipleship for All Ages – The Advent Wreath: The Candle of Joy

Reader: Advent means coming. We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

People: **Merciful God, we give thanks that you send messengers such as Isaiah to call us to greater faith. We ask that in these days we prepare for you in prayer and acts of holy compassion. Forgive us and lead us to your light. Amen.**

Hymn – *One Candle Is Lit* – v. 3

CH # 128

**Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth,
join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.
Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise.
One candle is lit for the joy of these days.**

(Children may be dismissed to Sunday School)

Scripture Readings

First Testament

The Gospel

Isaiah 35:1-10

Matthew 1:1-6

The Good News

Ruth: Finding Joy
(see the Book of Ruth)

Pastor Paul Day

Hymn – *Hail to the Lord's Anointed

CH # 140

**Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captives free,**

To take away transgressions, and rule in equity.

**He comes with justice speedy to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong,
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.**

**He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth.
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.
Before him, on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.**

**To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend,
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove.
His name shall stand forever; that name to us is Love.**

Prayers of God's People

+ The Offering of Our Gifts and Ourselves to God +

There is a simple joy to be found in sharing what we have. Regardless of how much or how little that may be, a portion belongs to God. What God desires is not an altar of sacrifices, but an outstretched hand. Give what you can, and delight in the joy your gift will bring.

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)**

from *Worship Ways*

Precious God, take these gifts in the spirit they were given, with joy and love for our siblings around the world. Let us remember that we all have times of trouble. We will each stand before you, hands clasped in prayer, begging for relief. Use what we have here to bring that relief where it is needed most. Amen

Hymn – *Joy to the World

CH # 143

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world, the savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks,
hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove the glories of this righteousness,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,**

and wonders, wonders of his love.

***Charge and Benediction**

***Response: Joy, joy, great joy, my joy I give to you.
Joy, joy, great joy, my joy I give to you.
Not as the world gives, I give to you,
Not as the world gives, I give to you.
Joy, joy, great joy, my joy I give to you.**

Postlude –

We Go Forth to Serve God and Our Neighbors

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THIS WEEK*

Today 10:30 am, Coffee Hour/3pm GFCC Concert
Tue. 10:00 am, Tuesday Gals
Wed. 6:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 1:00 pm, Discipleship Book Group
Saturday 9:30 am—2:00 pm, Nativity Display Open House
Next Lord's Day, December 21 – Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:30 am, Choir Rehearsal
9:30 am, Worship
10:30 am, Coffee Hour

IN OUR PRAYERS*

Congregation & Community: Sheila Babcock, Terri Bickford, Candy Burgess, Carol Davis, Sandra and Vince Golonka, Linda Lambrides, the Moon Family, Steve Quentel, Lori Martin and Kaitlin Quentel, Holly and Charles Slonina, Susanellen Stearns, Nancy White.

Wider World: People recovering from natural disasters in the U.S. and around the world; Black Mountain Orphanage; Peace in Ukraine, Gaza, and elsewhere.

Staff

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Paul A. Day
Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper: Lyn Glassock
Music Director: David Myers-Wakeman
Organists: Peter Dickson & Jesse Myers-Wakeman
Sexton: Mark R. H. Heath
Treasurer: Liz McGlinn, CPA, CGMA
Church Phone: 829-3644
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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>.

*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.