

**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

**Christmas Eve Family Worship Service**  
**December 24, 2025 ~ 5:00 p.m.**

## **We Gather to Worship God**

\*Those who are able may stand.

**Bold** type indicates Congregational Responses

### **Prelude**

### **The Lighting of the Altar Candles**

**5:00 pm**

### **Welcome & Call to Worship**

**Psalm 96:1-4a, 9, 11-13**

Pastor: Sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

People: **Sing to the LORD, bless God's name;  
tell of God's salvation from day to day.**

Pastor: Declare God's glory among the nations,  
God's marvelous works among all the peoples.

People: **For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised . . . .**

Pastor: Worship the LORD in holy splendor;  
tremble before God, all the earth. . . .

People: **Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
let the field exult, and everything in it.**

Pastor: Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy  
before the LORD; for God is coming,  
for God is coming to judge the earth.

People: **God will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with truth.**

### **\*Hymn – Joy to the World!**

**CH # 143**

Words: Isaac Watts, 1719

Music: Attr. George F. Handel, 1741; arr. Lowell Mason, 1848

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.

## **The Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Pastor: Advent means coming. We light the candles on the Advent wreath as a sign of Hope for the coming of the Prince of Peace.

People: **We are filled with Joy as we welcome God's Love into our lives and our world.**

Pastor: We are also preparing ourselves for the days when Isaiah's prophecy will be fulfilled in us.

People: **"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined."**

Pastor: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

People: **God, our Life and Light, thank you for coming this night to us. Thank you for touching all heaven and earth with your splendor. In every corner of the world, shine this night with your peace. In every corner of our hearts, shine this night with your grace. Amen.**

## **Hymn – *One Candle Is Lit* – v. 5**

**CH # 128**

Come, listen the sounds of god with us ring clear,  
and signs of a cross in the distance appear.  
The Word once made flesh, yet the Word ever near.  
One candle is lit for the Christ birthday here.

## **Passing the Peace**

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

## **Choir Anthem – *Adoration Medley***

- arr. Ed Kee

## **Interactive Christmas Story**

### **\*Hymn – Hark! the Herald Angels Sing**

**CH # 150**

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored: Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh, the God-head see; Hail, the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased, in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!

Hail! the heaven-born Prince of peace! Hail! the Son of Righteousness! Light and  
life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings, mild he lays his glory by, born  
that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second  
birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

### **Scripture Readings**

**First Testament**

**New Testament**

**Isaiah 9:1-7**

**Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7**

**\*Hymn – O Come, All Ye Faithful – vv. 1, 2 & 4**

**CH # 148**

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him, Born the King of Angels;

**O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him**  
**O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

**O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him**  
**O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born for our salvation,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given; word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

**O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him**  
**O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

**The Good News – “*Mary Was That Mother Mild*”  
Luke 1:46-55**

**Pastor Paul Day**

**Special Music – *When Mary Sang Her Lullaby***

**Sally DeFord**

Christie Paul, David Myers-Wakeman, Jesse Myers-Wakeman

**A Christmas Prayer**

Lord, as we come together this Christmas, we ask for your blessing upon your people. Unite our hearts in love, understanding, and peace. May this Christmastide be a time of reconnecting and strengthening our bonds of love. Help us to forgive past hurts and embrace each other with open hearts. Let the joy of this season fill our homes, and may we continue to grow in love and support for one another throughout the coming year.

Gracious God, as we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace, we pray for peace on earth. May the message of peace that the angels proclaimed on the first Christmas resonate in every heart and home. Bring healing to a world filled with conflict and division. Help us to reflect on how we can be instruments of your peace and agents of grace in our families, communities, and beyond. For we pray as Jesus has 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.**

**+ The Offering of Our Gifts and Ourselves to God +**

God has told us many times and, in many ways, where love flows from—it comes from the hand we extend when we have enough and even when we do not. Let us bring forth the true joy of this season and give as we are able.

**Offertory – Two Noels**

**J. Dandrieu**

**\*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*

**Love and Light of the world, we give you thanks for these gifts,  
and for the ability to share your love in a tangible form. Help us to  
remember, as we await Christ's birth, to give as generously as we  
receive, knowing we will always be rich in your abundant love.  
Amen.**

**\*Lighting our Candles**

Please form a circle around the sanctuary. As we pass the light, keep  
the lit candle upright. Tilt the unlit candle to the flame of the lit candle.

**\*Hymn – *Silent Night, Holy Night*** **CH # 145**

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.**

**Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

**We Go Forth to Serve God and Our Neighbors**

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and CCLI #48404708

**We are pleased to welcome you to worship this evening and we wish  
you a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.**

If you are able we invite you to join us for worship on Sundays at 9:30 am in  
the sanctuary or on-line (see below). Children are welcome; during the  
service they may be dismissed for Sunday School.

### **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  
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Church e-mail: nyarmouthccucc@gmail.com  
Church Website: <http://nyccucc.com>  
Maine Conference Website: [www.maineucc.org](http://www.maineucc.org)  
YouTube: [youtube.com/c/nyccucc](http://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>.