

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 Second Sunday of Advent
December 7, 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:** Faithful seekers, watch and pray.

Congregation: Soon a Morning Star will rise.

Choir: Clear the path; prepare the way.

Congregation: Soon a Morning Star will rise.
(repeat as directed)

Call to Worship

Romans 15:4-7, altered

Pastor: Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction.

People: **So that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.**

Pastor: May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant us to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

People: **So that together we may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, to the glory of God.

Hymn – *Let There Be Peace on Earth

CH # 677

Words: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson, 1955

Music: Sy Miller & Jill Jackson, 1955, harm. Charles h. Webb, 1987

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.

With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:

to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

Invocation *A Handbook for the Lectionary*

God of all peoples, your servant John came baptizing and calling for repentance. Help us to hear his voice of judgment, that we may also rejoice in his word of promise, and be found pure and blameless in that glorious day when Christ comes to rule on earth as the Prince of Peace; for we pray as Jesus 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 – A Morning Star Will Rise
- from *Rhapsody in Bluegrass: A Christmas Jubilee* by Joseph M. Martin

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

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

We are preparing ourselves for the days when . . .

The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them. Isaiah 11:6

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

People: **O God, as a candle flickering in a dark room evokes a sense of calm, help us to enter into your peace, and to work for peace and justice in your world; in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.**

Hymn – One Candle Is Lit – v. 2 CH # 128

Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare
for a gift that compels us with justice to care.
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.
One candle is lit for the reign of God’s peace.
(Children may be dismissed to Sunday School)

Scripture Readings

First Testament	Isaiah 11:1-10
The Gospel	Matthew 3:1-12

The Good News	<i>Rahab: Making Peace</i>	Pastor Paul Day
	(see Joshua 2:1-24 & 6:1-25)	

***Hymn – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** CH # 119

Words: st. 1-2 tr. John M. Neale, 1851; st. 3-4 tr. Henry S. Coffin, 1916
Music: French Melody (15 Century); arr. and harm. Thomas Helmore, 1854

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, o Israel!**

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh; to us
the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go. Rejoice,
rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, o Israel!**

**O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy,
strife and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven’s peace. Rejoice,
rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, o Israel!**

+ The Offering of Our Gifts and Ourselves to God +

Peace makes us generous. God's abundance pours through us to our neighbors, just as God's love showers us with blessing. As each of us gives what we can, we seek to build God's Beloved Community.

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

Emmanuel, hear our prayer! We bring these gifts before you to spread peace throughout our homes, our communities, and our world. Take these gifts to strengthen our church and bring relief to your beloved children wherever there is need. Amen

+ The Sacrament of Holy Communion +

Pastor: Jesus gathered his disciples together on his last night. He made room at the table for those who loved him, those who questioned him, those who followed him, and for the one who would betray him.

As they were eating, Jesus took the bread, blessed it, then gave it to them, saying "This is my body broken for you, do this in remembrance of me."

In the same manner, following their meal, Jesus took the cup and blessed it and poured it out for each one of them and said, "This is the cup of the new covenant, sealed in my blood, given for you and for all for the forgiveness of your sins.

"As often, then, as you eat this bread and drink this cup, do so in memory of me."

People: **Gracious and Eternal God, we share this meal as a symbol of Peace. In each of us, we find the beloved, the follower, the doubter, and the betrayer, and yet we know that we are welcome at this table. This meal is open to all, that it may offer sustenance as well as refuge. May we leave this table refreshed, ready to take your ministry of extravagant hope, everlasting peace, exuberant joy, and abundant love into the world. Amen**

Pastor: Come now, open to Peace within. All are welcome at Christ's table. We gather to renew our spirits with this sacred meal, and offer a place at the table for all.

Sharing the Bread & the Cup

Prayers of God's People

***Hymn – *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day* insert**

Words: Henry W. Longellow, 1807-1882 Music: John Calkin, 1827-1905

**I heard the bells on Christmas day Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat Of peace on earth, good will to men.**

**I thought how, as the day had come, The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th' unbroken song OF peace on earth, good will to men.**

**And in despair I bowed my head: "There is no peace on earth," I said, "for
hate is strong, and mocks the song Of peace on earth, good will to men."**

**Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "god is not dead, nor doth He
sleep; the wrong shall fail, the right prevail, With peace on earth, good will
to men."**

**Till, ringing, singing on its way, The world revolved from night to day A
voice, a chime, a chant sublime, Of peace on earth, good will to men.**

***Charge and Benediction Romans 15:13**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

***Response: Peace, peace, deep peace, my peace I give to you.
Peace, peace, deep peace, my peace I give to you.
Not as the world gives, I give to you,
Not as the world gives, I give to you.
Peace, peace, deep peace, my peace 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
Tue. 10:00 am, Tuesday Gals
Wed. 6:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 1:00 pm, Discipleship Book Group
Next Lord's Day, December 14 – Third 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, Jean and Butch Goff, 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.