

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



**The Second Sunday after Epiphany
Martin Luther King, Jr., Weekend
January 18, 2026**

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

We Gather to Worship God

*Those who are able may stand.

Bold type indicates Congregational Responses

Prelude – Nocturne on “Conditoralme Siderum”
Ellers

K. Wright
F. Ashdown

The Lighting of the Altar Candles 9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Grounding Prayer & Lighting the Peace Candle

Introit: Lord bless this new year, guide and come.
May there be peace for everyone.
Lord, may your blessings fill our hearts
and may we live our days with love.

Jocelyn Soriano

Call to Worship

inspired by **Isaiah 49:1-7**

Pastor: Listen to me, O Coastlands; people from away, pay attention!

People: **The Lord called us and named us even before we were born.**

Pastor: God says, “You are my people in whom I will be glorified.”

People: **We are honored in God’s sight; God has become our strength.**

Pastor: God says, “I am giving you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.”

Pastor: **The Lord, faithful and holy, has chosen us to reveal God’s grace.**

***Hymn – Amazing Grace!**

CH # 546

Words: John Newton, 1779; st. 4 anonymous

Music: Virginia Harmony, 1831; harm. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
‘tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’d first begun.

Invocation

Gracious God, we live in times of deep division, mistrust, and violence. May the example of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., inspire us to see in one another as sisters and brothers, with a common origin and destiny. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we might

realize and accept that we are all members of the same human family, created in your image and likeness. Open our hearts and minds to your word, and renew our commitment to justice and peace, pursued through cooperation and love. We pray in the name of Jesus, who calls us to create communities of justice, freedom and peace, and 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 – *Roll Down, Justice!*

Mark A. Miller

Discipleship for All Ages – Blessing of Prayer Shawls (unison prayer)

May God's grace be upon these shawls—warming, comforting, enfolding and embracing. May they be a mantle of safety, providing and well-being, sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones. May those who receive these shawls be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace, and wrapped in love. Amen.

(Children may be dismissed to Sunday School)

Scripture Reading

John 1:19-51

Hymn – *Open My Eyes, That I May See

CH # 586

Words and Music: Clara H. Scott, 1895

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.

Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.

Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.

Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

The Good News: "To the Church of God That Is in North Yarmouth" Pastor Paul Day
1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Prayers of God's People

(You are welcome to come forward to light a candle with your prayer.)

Response: Hear our prayer, O Lord; hear our prayer, O Lord;
Incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. Amen.

+ The Offering of Our Gifts and Ourselves to God +

Invitation to Generosity

Paul reminds us that we have been enriched in every way in Christ, so that we lack no spiritual gift as we wait and work for your Reign to be revealed.

Offertory – Detroit

N. Raabe

***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**

Creator of heaven and earth, receive these offerings from our hearts and our hands. May they be used to bring a bit of heaven to earth. Amen.

***Hymn – Lift Every Voice and Sing**

CH # 631

Words: James W. Johnson, 1921; Music: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our people sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path thru the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

***Charge and Benediction**

Response: Go forth into the world

Mary (Mitzie) Collins

Rejoicing in the power of the spirit
Thanks be to God, thanks be to God,
Thanks be to God, Amen! (repeat)

Postlude – Variations on “St. Anne”

S. Aber

+ We Go Forth to Serve God and Our Neighbors +

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THIS WEEK*

Today 10:30 am, Coffee Hour
Mon. The church will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Day
Tue. 10:00 am, Tuesday Gals
Wed. 6:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 1:00 pm, Discipleship Book Group
Next Lord's Day, January 25 – Third Sunday after Epiphany
8:30 am, Choir Rehearsal
9:30 am, Worship
10:30 am, Annual Meeting

IN OUR PRAYERS*

Congregation & Community: Sheila Babcock, David & Michelle Bickford, Terri Bickford, Candy Burgess, Carol Davis, Sandra and Vince Golonka, 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
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>.

*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.