

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



The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2026 ~ 9:30 a.m.

**The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2026**

We Gather to Worship God

Prelude Organ Preludes 1 & 2

F. Mendelssohn

Bringing in the Light of Christ

Acolyte

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Biggar, Interim Pastor

Threshold Moment

Gathering Music (on song sheet): **“We are a Wilderness Wandering People”**

**We are a wilderness wandering people
on a journey of the soul.
May we find our destination
in our longing to be whole.
Our Holy God is calling to us.
With Jesus by our side
may compassion be our compass;
may the Spirit be our guide,
on The Way,
on The Way,
on The Way.**

Prayer for the Path

**Our God who is our Home,
be with us on The Way.
At times we aren't sure about
the relationship of the road we travel
and the home we seek.
Will we ever feel like we have arrived?
We come hoping for the hearth of acceptance
in the home that Jesus promises.
And whether we are feeling lost or at home,
may we know you are always with us.
Amen.**

***Hymn # 545 “He Leadeth Me”**

Words: Joseph H. Gilmore, 1862; Music: William B. Bradbury, 1864

He leadeth me: O blessed Thought! O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
What-e'er I do, Wher-e'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me:
His faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.

Lord, I would place my hand in thine, nor ever murmur nor re-pine;
by waters still, o'er troubled sea, still 'tis thy hand that leadeth me.

He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me:
His faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.

And when my task on earth is done, when, by thy grace, the victory's won,
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since God thro' Jordan leadeth me.

He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me:
His faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.

Scripture Reading Psalm 25:4-10

Choir Anthem – “10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)”

Words and Music by Jonas Myrin & Matt Redman; arr Dave Williamson

Discipleship for All Ages “What does ‘home’ feel like to you?”

Hymn for All Ages # 494 “We Are One in the Spirit”

Words and Music: Peter Scholtes, 1966

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, we are one in the Spirit, we are
one in the Lord, and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes, they'll know we
are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, we will walk with each
other, we will walk hand in hand, and together we'll spread the news that God is in
our land:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes, they'll know we
are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side, we will work with each other, we will work side by side, and we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come, and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son, and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Introduction to Scripture

Rev. Biggar

Scripture Reading Luke 15:11b-32

Sermon "On the Way Home"

Prayers of the People

Prayers for Getting Out of Our Own Way
(guided meditation led by Rev. Biggar)

Response

**Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Be the air I breathe
Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Free me to receive.**

A moment for silent contemplation and reflection

Words of Assurance

Rev. Biggar

Response

**Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Be the air I breathe
Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Free me to receive.**

Prayers for Others Along the Way
Sharing of Joys and Concerns

As this is the third Sunday of the month, you are invited to come forward to the candle stand to light a candle while you share a personal prayer. You are respectfully requested to speak into the microphone as clearly and concisely as you can.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Offering Our Gifts and Ourselves to God

Offertory Mendelssohn Da Pacem Setting by R. Schultz

***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**

Our Faith in Action (Church Announcements)

***Hymn # 340 "Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling"**

Words and Music: Will L. Thompson, 1880

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me;
patient and loving, he's waiting watching,
watching for you and for me.
Come home, come home, ye who are weary, come home;
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling – calling, "O sinner, come home!"

Why should we linger when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we wait, then, and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me?

Come home, come home, ye who are weary, come home;
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling – calling, “O sinner, come home!

O for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me;
tho’ we have sinned he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me.
Come home, come home, ye who are weary, come home;
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling – calling, “O sinner, come home!

Responsive Benediction

The Creator God filled you with breath,
inviting you to this journey called Life.
We will follow on The Way.

Jesus, our Guide, showed us what it means
to make a new way with Love.
We will follow on The Way.

The Spirit gives us strength to move forward
with Courage and Compassion for all we meet.
We will follow on The Way.

May this week be filled with opportunities to choose
to love in ways you never thought possible,
so that Home is anywhere you go.
May it be so.
Amen.
“Buen Camino!”

Taking the Light of Christ into the World Acolyte

Postlude We are One in this Spirit / St. Brendan’s D. Schelat

We Go Forth to Serve God and Our Neighbors

* Those who are able may stand.

Acknowledgements: Today's Order of Worship and printed prayers are adapted from "The Way" by Dr. Marcia McFee, published by Worship Designs Studio, used by permission.

Staff

Intentional Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Cynthia Biggar
Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper: Lyn Glassock
Music Director: David Myers-Wakeman
Organist: Peter Dickson
Organist: Jesse Myers-Wakeman
Sexton: Mark R. H. Heath
Treasurer: Lois Knight

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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 nyarmouthcucc@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>.

THIS WEEK*

Today - 10:30 am, Coffee Hour
Tuesday, March 17 – Tuesday Gals at 10am
Wednesday, March 18 – Bell Ringing in the Comm. room at 5:45pm/Choir at 6:30pm
Thursday, March 19 – Greely Boys Hockey Banquet in FH/Council at 6:30PM
Friday, March 20 – Movie Night "The Way" & Pot Luck at 5:30pm See Poster attached.

IN OUR PRAYERS*

Congregation & Community: Candy Burgess, Butch & Jean Goff, Sandra and Vince Golonka, Steve Quentel, Lori Martin and Kaitlin Quentel, Holly and Charles Slonina, Susanellen Stearns.

Wider World: People recovering from natural disasters and conflicts in the U.S. and around the world. Peace within ourselves, our families, our communities, and our world.

*Please submit items for the Church Calendar to Lyn Glassock by Tuesday in order to be included in the bulletin. For the prayer list, please speak with a deacon or the pastor. Thank You. Note: Hymns and songs are licensed under One License #A-73187 and CCLI #48404708

A pink background featuring movie-themed items: a striped popcorn bucket on the left, a film strip on the right, a bowl of popcorn at the bottom left, and a film canister lid at the bottom right. The text is centered in the middle.

MOVIE NIGHT

**FRIDAY MARCH 20, 2026
POTLUCK DINNER 5:30 PM**

MOVIE AT 6:00 PM

**JOIN US FOR A POTLUCK DINNER FOLLOWED BY
A SHOWING OF *THE WAY*, ABOUT A MAN'S
PILGRIMAGE ON THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO.**

LENT & HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Family Night with Pot Luck (March 20)

5:30pm Movie "The Way" at NYCC

Palm Sunday (March 29):

9:30am (Worship)

Maundy Thursday (April 2):

5:30 PM (Soup and Bread Service) and

6:30 PM Tenebrae Service at the New Gloucester Church-19 Gloucester Hill Rd. with combined choirs.

Anyone who would like to bring dessert is welcome to do so.

Good Friday (April 3):

5:30 PM Service with Combined Choirs

at the Gray UCC Church - 11 Yarmouth Rd. Gray, ME

Easter Sunrise Service (April 5):

6:00am (at Skyline Farm 95 The Lane, North Yarmouth)

Easter Breakfast (April 5):

at the church following the sunrise service at NYCC

Easter Sunday (April 5):

9:30am (worship) at NYCC