

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



The Fifth Sunday in Eastertide
May 3, 2026 ~ 9:30 a.m.

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We Gather to Worship God

Prelude

Bringing in the Light of Christ

9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Music “Sanctuary”

please refer to song sheet

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy, tried and true;
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

Call to Worship *from Acts 7, Psalm 31, and John 14*

Come to Christ, our cornerstone.

Christ has called us here.

Trust in God, our firm foundation.

God is with us here.

Rest in the Spirit, our peace beyond peace.

May the Spirit guide our way. AMEN

***Hymn # 16 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”**

Words: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.

Music: Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.

Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise to thee an altar; hither by thy help I'm come;

and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;

he, to rescue me from danger, Interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!

Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.

Prone to wander, how I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

Opening Prayer (in unison) *from Acts 7, Psalm 31, and John 14*

**Faithful God,
You are our refuge and our strength,
a mighty fortress in a world of chaos and turmoil.
Protect us, but also encourage us to be brave.
Strengthen us to face this world
and to make it a better place.
Inspire our worship,
that in this time we may deepen our faith
and place our trust in You. AMEN**

Choir Anthem – “Sanctuary”

by John Thompson & Randy Scruggs; arr. by Lloyd Larson

We Celebrate the Sacrament of Communion

Invitation

Communion Hymn # 284 “Gather Us In” verse 1

Here in this place, the new light is streaming, shadows of doubt are vanished away. See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in; our spirits in-flame. Call to us now, and we shall a-waken; we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.

Introduction

Luke the Evangelist wrote of our risen Lord, that when he was at table with two of the disciples, he took bread and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them, and their eyes were opened, and they recognized him.

**In company with all believers in every time and beyond time,
we come to this table to know him in the breaking of the bread.**

For the Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and, when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he also took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Communion Hymn # 284 "Gather Us In," verse 3

Here we receive new life in the waters; here we receive the bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us a-new to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Communion Liturgy

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is good to give God thanks and praise.

We give You thanks, Lord God, our Creator,
for bringing the worlds into being,
for forming us in Your likeness,
for recalling us when we rebel against You,
and for keeping the world in Your steadfast love.

We praise You especially for Jesus Christ;
who was born of Mary and lived as one of us;
who knew exactly the life we know,
and yet was obedient to Your purposes,
even to his death on a cross.

We thank You for stamping his death with victory
by raising him in power
and by making him head over all things.

We rejoice in the continuing presence of the Holy Spirit,
in the church You have gathered,
in its task of obedience,
and in the promise of eternal life.

With the faithful in every place and time,
we praise with joy Your holy name:

**Holy, holy, holy,
God of love and majesty,
The whole universe speaks of Your glory,
O God, most high.**

Bless now, O God, by Your Word and Spirit,
both us and these gifts of bread and juice,
that in receiving them at this table,
and in offering here our faith and praise
we may be united with Christ and one another,
and remain faithful to the tasks he sets before us.

**In the strength Christ gives,
we offer ourselves to You,
giving thanks that You have called us to serve You. AMEN**

Through the broken bread
We participate in the body of Christ.
Through the cup of blessing
We participate in the new life Christ gives.
Come, for all things are ready.

After everyone has received a piece of bread, and a cup of juice, and returned to their seats, the Pastor will say:

Eat this, for it is the body of Christ, broken for you.

Drink this, for it is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

A moment of silent reflection

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give You thanks, O God, for refreshing us at you table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

Hymn for All Ages # 284 “Gather Us In,” verses 2 and 4

We are the young – our lives are a mystery; we are the old, who yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in the rich and the haughty; gather us in the proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

Not just in build-ings, small and confining, not in some heaven, light years away, here in this place the new light is shining; now is God present, and now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us for-ever; gather us in and make us your own; gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

We Hear and Respond to the Word

Introduction to Scripture

Rev. Biggar

Scripture Reading: I Peter 2:4-10

Meditation “Christ, the Cornerstone”

“The United Church of Christ Statement of Faith”

in the form of a Doxology
A testimony, not a test of faith

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being,
create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior,
you have come to us
and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death
and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.
Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.

AMEN

Prayers of the People

Sharing of Joys and Concerns
Silent Prayer
Pastoral Prayer

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. 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.

Invitation to Offering

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**

offered by Pastor

Our Faith in Action (Church Announcements)

***Hymn # 453 “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”**

Words: Jane Parker Huber, 1981; Music: John Zundel, 1870

Called as partners in Christ’s service, called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God’s chosen end.

Christ’s example, Christ’s inspiring, Christ’s clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God’s people, young and old,
blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ’s mission, in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other’s burdens, breaking down each wall or fence. Words of
comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
that surround each person’s sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

***Benediction**

Taking the Light of Christ into the World

Postlude

We Go Forth to Serve God and Our Neighbors

* Those who are able may stand.

Acknowledgements: Today’s printed prayers are from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2026; used by permission. The Communion Liturgy is adapted from one published by the United Church of Christ in the Hymnal: United Church of Christ (United Church Press, 1986, pp. 27-29).

Staff

Intentional Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Cynthia Biggar
Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper: Lyn Glassock

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Organist: Peter Dickson

Organist: Jesse Myers-Wakeman

Sexton: Mark R. H. Heath

Treasurer: Liz McGlinn, CPA, CGMA

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Maine Conference Website: www.maineucc.org

YouTube: [youtube.com/c/nyccucc](https://www.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>.

THIS WEEK*

Today - 10:30 am, Coffee Hour

Tuesday, May 5 – Tuesday Gals at 10am

Wednesday, May 6 – Bell Ringing at 5:45pm / Choir at 6:30 pm

Thursday, May 7 – Discipleship at 1pm

Sunday, May 10 – Choir at 8:30am / Faith Formation following Worship

IN OUR PRAYERS*

We pray for those in our congregation and community who are

- mourning the loss of loved ones;
- serving our country in the military, including James Black, E-6, US Navy;
- experiencing health issues or personal concerns, including Candy B., Sandra and Vince G., Steve Q., Lori M. and Kaitlin Q., Holly and Charles S., and Susanelle S.

We pray for those in the wider world, nationally and globally who are

- hungry or unhoused,
- experiencing violence and destruction from wars and conflicts,
- rebuilding their lives following natural disasters,
- recovering from trauma.

We pray for 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