

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



COMMUNION SERVICE

with

**First Congregational Church of Gray, UCC
and
First Congregational Church of New Gloucester, UCC**

August 2, 2026

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 2, 2026

***A warm welcome to the Gray and New Gloucester UCC
congregations and their pastors!***

We Gather to Worship God

Prelude

Bringing in the Light of Christ

9:30 a.m.

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Biggar

Call to Worship (inspired by Isaiah 55: 1-5)

Come to the water, all you who thirst—
come drink deeply from the river of life.

**Come to the water, all you who are weary—
come rest in the quiet pools of God's love.**

Come to the water, all you who long for a justice—
come be renewed in God's ever-flowing stream.

**For God is here among us,
washing away the dust and grime of our lives,
and pouring out the Spirit on all who thirst.
Let's worship God together.**

***Hymn # 2 "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"**

Words: Henry van Dyke, 1907, alt,

Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; arr. Edward Hodges, 1864; desc. Susan Adams, 1995

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive our fear and doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
changing bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou are Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus; stars of morning, take your part;
love divine is reigning o'er us, binding those of tender heart.
Ever singing, move we on-ward, victors in the midst of strife,
joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

Opening Prayer (from Psalm 145:15-16, Isaiah 55:1-3, John 6:35) *Unison*

**Lord,
the eyes of all look to You in hope;
and You give them what they need.
You open Your hand
and satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing.**

**We, too, turn to You again, longing to be filled—
to eat of the Bread of Life,
to drink from Your life-giving streams,
to taste Your goodness and live.**

**May the time we spend together in Your presence
nourish our hearts and minds;
may it strengthen our relationship with You,
and renew our commitment to live in this world
as Your faithful disciples.**

**For You alone are God,
the Source and Sustainer of life.
In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Anthem (combined choirs) "A Place at the Table"
Words by Shirley Erena Murray, Music by Mary MacDonald

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.
Pastor: It is our duty and our joy
at all times and in all places
to give thanks to You, O God,
Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit.
**ALL: Therefore, with Angels and Archangels
and all the company of heaven,
we laud and magnify Your glorious name,
evermore praising You and saying,
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!**
Pastor: We offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
**ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**
Pastor: O holy God, Creator of all people and worlds,
send now upon this bread and cup
Your life-giving Spirit.
As we partake of this holy meal,
fill us with the Holy Spirit
that we may be one body
and one spirit in Christ.
All glory and honor is Yours, almighty God,
now and forever. AMEN

Communion Hymn # 321 "Break Thou the Bread of Life"

Words: St. 1,2, Mary A. Lathbury, 1877; st. 3, Alexander Groves, 1913, alt.
Music: William F. Sherwin, 1877

Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,

as thou didst bread the loaves beside the sea;
beyond the sacred page I seek thee, Lord,
my spirit pants for thee, O living Word.

Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, to me, to me,
as thou didst bless the bread by Galilee;
then shall bondage cease, all fetters fall;
and I shall find my peace, my all in all.

O send thy Spirit, Lord, now unto me;
touch thou my longing eyes that I may see;
give me to eat and live with thee above;
teach me to love thy truth, for thou art love.

Words of Institution

The Bread

The Cup

Sharing and partaking of the Bread and Cup, by Intinction

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**We give You thanks, O God,
that You have refreshed us at your 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.
AMEN.**

Response # 433 “Blest Be the Tie That Binds” verse 1, sing twice

Words: John Fawcett, 1872

Music: Johann G. Nageli, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1845

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love:
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 14: 13-21

Sermon “You Give Them Something to Eat!”

Rev. Biggar

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 the 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

Someone once offered a few loaves and a couple fish,
and a great crowd was fed.
We're not sure how it happened, O God,
but we know that when we bring our gifts,
and share them with others,
things multiply, and miracles occur.
So take our gifts and use them, we pray,
in Christ's name. AMEN

The Blessing of the Backpacks

led by Rev. Biggar

***Benediction**

***Response # 445 "Go in Peace"**

Words: Barber I. Waters, 1982 Music: Kenneth E. White, 1982

Go in peace and the peace of God be with you this day.
Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.
Celebrate and share the joy! Celebrate life!
Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.

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 Call to Worship and Opening Prayer were prepared by Christina Longhurst and posted on *reWorship.com*. The Prayer of Dedication is from *The Whole People of God*. The Communion Liturgy was put together by Rev. Biggar from resources including the *UCC Book of Worship*, the *Book of Common Prayer*, and the Roman Catholic Mass.

Staff

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Organist: Jesse Myers-Wakeman

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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>.

THIS WEEK*

Today - 10:30 am, Coffee Hour
Tuesday, August 4 - Tuesday Gals at 10am

Next Sunday, August 9, the Faith Formation team will meet after church.

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., George D. (Leah D.'s brother), Sandra and Vince G., Steve Q., Lori M. and Kaitlin Q., Holly and Charles S., and Susanellen 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 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