

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



The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 2026

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We Gather to Worship God

Prelude

Bringing in the Light of Christ

9:30 a.m.

Welcome

Rev. Jane MacIntyre, Guest Pastor

Call to Worship

From the moment we open our eyes each morning,
until we close them at night, God is with us.

There is no one like you, our God!

In times when we are surrounded with struggles,
in all the surprising places we find hope, Jesus is with us.

There is no one like you, our Brother!

When we feel orphaned by the world,
**when we are welcomed into faith's family,
the Holy Spirit is with us.**

There is no one like you, Witnessing Spirit!

***Hymn #6 "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"**

Words: Johann J. Schutz, 1675; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1864, alt.

Music: Bohemian Brethren's Kirchengesange, 1566; harm. Maurice F. Bell, 1906

Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation, the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation. With healing balm my soul is filled and every faithless murmur stilled; to God all praise and glory.

Our God is never far away, but through all grief distressing, an ever present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing. As with a mother's tender hand, God gently leads the chosen band: to God all praise and glory.

Then all my glad-some way along, I sing aloud your praises, that all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises. Be joyful in the Lord, my heart, both soul and body bear your part: to God all praise and glory.

Let all who name Christ's holy name give God all praise and glory; let all who own God's power proclaim aloud the wondrous story! Cast each false idol from its throne, for Christ is Lord, and Christ alone: to God all praise and glory.

Opening Prayer (in unison)

You we praise, Steadfast Love, for your presence never abandons us, but is at our side in all of life. There is no cobwebbed corner that is not claimed by your grace.

You we praise, Teller of parables. Your words challenge us in moments of doubt, as well as in our times of great faith. When we run around in circles chasing our worries and fears like a dog after its tail, you whisper hope to us.

You we praise, Spirit who calls to our hearts. Your voice is that gentle whisper in a world filled with angry shouts; your joy is that refreshing shower when despair parches our souls; your wonder opens our eyes and ears to the gifts which surround our lives.

You we praise, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

Scripture Reading: The Gospel According to Matthew 16:13-20

Sermon “Who Do You Say”

Rev. MacIntyre

Hymn # 609 “Take My Life”

Words: Frances R. Havergal, 1874; Music: H.A. Cear Malan, 1827

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee.

Take my moments and my days, let them flow in endless praise, let them flow in endless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of Thy love. Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee, swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing, always, Un-to God my praises bring. Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from Thee, filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold.

Take my intellect and use every power as Thou shalt choose, every power as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine, it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is thine own, it shall be thy royal throne, it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store. Take myself and I will be ever, only, all for Thee, ever, only, all for Thee.

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 *The Truth* David & Jesse Myers-Wakeman
- Jeffrey Pardo, Matthew West, Megan Woods

***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**

Your steadfast love is but one of the many gifts you pour into us. Our offerings are but a part of the ways in which we can serve you and your people. Bless them, and bless us, to ministries of healing and hope. Amen.

*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: Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies for Proper 16A

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

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>.

THIS WEEK*

Today - 10:30 am, Coffee Hour

Tuesday – Tuesday Gals will not be meeting on August 25th.

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., Sam Kajima, Steve Q., Lori M. and Kaitlin Q., 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 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