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



Whoever you are,
Wherever you are on life's journey,
You are welcome here.

The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2026

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We Gather to Worship God

Prelude Partita on Ebenezer B. Culli

Bringing in the Light of Christ **9:30 a.m.**

Welcome *Rev. Dr. Cynthia Biggar, Interim Pastor*

Call to Worship *from Psalm 123, Matthew 25*

Raise your eyes to the God of heaven and earth.
We raise our hearts and voices
with songs of praise.
Awaken your mind to the mysteries of God.
We open ourselves to listen and learn
in new ways.
Notice your blessings and gifts,
miraculously given by God.
We offer our lives and gifts to bless
and grow God's love in the world.

***Hymn # 284 "Gather Us In"**
Words and music: Marty Haugen, 1981

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.

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.

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.

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.

Opening Prayer ***from Judges 4, Matthew 25***

God of mystery and miracles,
bless our worship with Your presence.
Bless our lives with Your guidance.
Bless our world with Your wisdom.
May we perceive Your mysterious ways
as miracles and paths to draw us closer to You
and to Your realm here on earth.
In Your holy name, we pray, AMEN.

A Moment for Missions *Dale King, Missions Board Member*

Anthem "All Good Gifts" by Stephen Schwartz; arr. by John Leavitt *NYCC Choir*

A Message for All Ages

Hymn for All Ages # 614 "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"
Words: African-American spiritual; Music: African-American spiritual; arr. Bill Thomas, 1994

I'm gonna live so God can use me anytime and anywhere. I'm gonna live so God can use me anytime and anywhere.

I'm gonna work so God can use me anytime and anywhere. I'm gonna work so God can use me anytime and anywhere.

I'm gonna pray so God can use me anytime and anywhere. I'm gonna pray so God can use me anytime and anywhere.

I'm gonna sing so God can use me anytime and anywhere. I'm gonna sing so God can use me anytime and anywhere.

A Stewardship Moment *Lois Knight, Treasurer*

Introduction to Scripture *Rev. Cynthia*

Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:14-30

Reflection "Talents"

Responsive Prayer *from Matthew 25*

One talent or ten, one gift or many,
one blessing or abundant blessings,
our lives and gifts are blessings to share.
One dollar or a million, one minute or 365 days,
one cup of water or an entire feast,
our lives and gifts are blessings to share.
May we recognize our blessings
and be courageous in our sharing.
May we embrace and share our gifts
to grow God's realm of love on this earth.

Prayers of the People *offered at the Candle Table*

Anyone who wishes to do so, may come forward to the Candle Table to light a candle while offering words of testimony or a prayer. After each person speaks, let us take a moment of silence.

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: One talent or ten, one dollar or a million--every gift matters to God and to our church. In this time of offering, let's reflect on the myriad ways in which God invites us to share ourselves and our gifts.

Offertory St. Columba by Meirion Wynn Jones

***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** *from I Thessalonians 5 and Matthew 25*

God of mystery and miracles,
bless the gifts and lives we offer to you today
with your miraculous abundance
and your mysterious guidance.
Transform these gifts and lives

to be instruments of your love, justice and mercy,
that they might bring your realm to earth. AMEN

Our Faith in Action (Church Announcements)

***Hymn # 609 "Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated"**
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.

***Benediction**

Taking the Light of Christ into the World

Postlude Postlude by M. Christina de Jong

We Go Forth to Serve God and Our Neighbors

* Those who are able may stand.

Acknowledgements: Today's printed prayers are worship resources written by Mary Scifres, published by The Abingdon Worship Annual 2026.

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
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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 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, Nov. 17– Tuesday Gals at 10am
Wednesday, Nov. 18–Choir at 6:30 pm
Thursday, Nov. 19– Bible Study at 1pm / Church Council at 6 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 21– Santa's Workshop Christmas Fair, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 22 – Choir at 8:30am

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, Nov. 22 Thanksgiving Sunday will include a Blessing and Dedication of Pledges, and a Blessing and Dedication of Prayer Shawls.

Sunday, Nov. 29 First Sunday in Advent. The Advent Wreath will be put together during worship, and the first Advent Candle will be lit. After church there will be a potluck brunch ("Thanksgiving leftovers"), a crafts table, and the Hanging of the Greens (decorating the Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas with Leah Davis as the point person).

Sunday, Dec. 13 Third Sunday in Advent, we will celebrate "Little Christmas" during Coffee Hour. Lois Knight is the point person for "Little Christmas."

Sunday, Dec. 20 Fourth Sunday in Advent service will include an **Interactive Christmas Story** led by Amanda Skupin.

Thursday, Dec 24. Christmas Eve Services of Lessons, Carols, and Candlelight at 5 p.m. and 11 p.m. The "Lessons" are scripture readings from the King James Version of the Bible. For the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve service, we will be following a plan adapted by Rev. Cynthia from the Kings College, Cambridge, Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. **If you would like to be one of the Christmas Eve Readers, please see Rev. Cynthia. If you would like to sing with the Choir during Advent and Christmas, please see David Myers-Wakeman.**

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., Jasmine L. (Trudy P.'s granddaughter), Samuel N., Steve Q., Lori M. and Kaitlin Q., and James 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 neighbors, friends, colleagues, and fellow Christians who are "New Mainers" or "sojourners," seeking to live, study, work, and raise their families peaceably among us (See Leviticus 19:33-34).

We pray for those who are struggling with, or in recovery from addictions including alcoholism, and their families and friends.

We pray for peace within ourselves, our families, our communities, and our world.

*****Family and friends are invited to attend a time of visitation for Candace Smith on Friday, November 13, from 2-4 pm at Lindquist Funeral Home, 1 Mayberry Lane, Yarmouth. A

Celebration of Candace's Life will be held at The North Yarmouth Congregational Church on Saturday, November 28, at 11 am.

*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