

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

I am the church!
You are the church!
We are the church TOGETHER!

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 26, 2021 ~ 9:30 a.m.

I Will Survive

**for the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 26, 2021**

Prelude

Sung: *God welcomes all! Strangers and friends!*

God's love is strong! And it never ends!

Words: John L. Bell, Music: South African traditional,
transcribed by John L. Bell at the Sunrise Hospice, Themba
Text: © 2008, GIA/Iona Community / WGRG

Welcome and Announcements

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: I am the church; you are the church.

Congregation: We are the church together.

Leader: We depend on our seniors and long-time members
to remember where we came from and where we have been.

Congregation: We are the church together.

Leader: We depend on our children to retell our sacred stories
as they grow.

Congregation: We are the church together.

Leader: We depend on our youth and young adults
to ask us why we do things this way
and to suggest something new.

Congregation: We are the church together.

Leader: We need each other to be the church.

Congregation: We are the church together.

***HYMN**

The Church's One Foundation #272 CH

Words: Samuel J. Stone, 1866, alt.; st. 2 adapt. Laurence Hull Stookey, 1983 alt.
Music: Samuel S. Wesley, 1864; desc. Charles H. Webb, 1980

**The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are his new creation by water and the Word;
from heaven he came and sought us to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought us, and for our life he died.**

**Called forth from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
our charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name professing and at one table fed,**

to one hope always pressing, by Christ's own Spirit led.

**Though with a scornful wonder the world sees us oppressed,
by schisms rent a sunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.**

**Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation of peace forever more;
till with the vision glorious our longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.**

**We now on earth have union with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
Oh, happy ones, and holy! Lord, give us grace that we like them,
the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator of us all,
We sometimes forget:
We forget that we are not alone,
We forget that you made us,
We forget that we have had help along the way,
We forget to ask for what we need.
Embodied God,
Remind us that we are surrounded.
We are surrounded by the people you have created,
And by the many gifts you have given them to share.
Remind us of our own gifts,
And the ways we may use them in community.
Suffering Savior,
We confess that in our own struggle to survive,
We have ignored other communities.
We have forgotten that they too have the right to survive.
Make us mindful. Make us compassionate.
Help us to see you in one another.
In your name we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Beloved in Christ, know that you are God's own and that through divine love you are freed to begin anew the work of living together in compassionate community.

Gospel Reading *Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22; Psalm 124*

Message

Rev. Nancy J. White

***HYMN**

We Are the Church

Words and Music: Richard K. Avery (1934-) & Donald S. Marsh (1923-)

**I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!**

**The church is not a building the church is not a steeple,
the church is not a resting place, the church is a people.
I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!**

**We're many kinds of people, with many kinds of faces,
All colors and all ages, too, from all times and places.
I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!**

**Sometimes the church is marching, sometimes it's bravely burning,
Sometimes it's riding, sometimes hiding, always it's learning.
I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!**

**And when the people gather, there's singing and there's praying,
there's laughing and there's crying sometimes, all of it saying:
I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!**

**At Pentecost some people received the Holy Spirit
and told the Good News through the world to all who would hear it.
I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!**

Prayers of the People **and 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.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Having recognized the many gifts we bring and receive from one another, let us share what we have in gratitude.

***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

May these tangible gifts
and all the intangible gifts we share among us
make known to the world that God is within us and among us.

***HYMN**

Come Build a Church

Words and Music: Ken Medema (1943 -) /Briar Patch Music

Refrain: Come build a church with soul and spirit, come build a church of flesh and bone. We need no tower rising sky-ward; no house of wood, or glass, or stone. Come build a church with human frailty. Come build a church of flesh and blood. Jesus shall be its sure foundation. It shall be built by the hand of God.

Let us see the tongues of fire. Let us hear the great wind roar. Let us know the awe and wonder, that we've only glimpsed before. Let us feel the strength of passion, which can make us laugh and weep. Let us know this great awakening. For so long we've been asleep.

Come build a church with soul and spirit, come build a church of flesh and bone. We need no tower rising sky-ward; no house of wood, or glass, or stone. Come build a church with human frailty. Come build a church of flesh and blood. Jesus shall be its sure foundation. It shall be built by the hand of God.

**Let us know the love unceasing, which alone can loose the bounds,
reaching out across the chasms, bringing walls of hatred down. Let us
taste the sweet communion, where the circle never ends. Hold us in the
sweet connection, turning strangers into friends.**

**Come build a church with soul and spirit, come build a church of flesh and
bone. We need no tower rising sky-ward; no house of wood, or glass, or
stone. Come build a church with human frailty. Come build a church of
flesh and blood. Jesus shall be its sure foundation. It shall be built by the
hand of God.**

**Guide our feet in peaceful pathways. Teach us peace of heart and mind;
please with God and all God's children; till we leave our wars behind.
Surely joy will come and find us like a breeze that cools the night; like the
rain upon the dessert; like a candle's gentle light.**

**Come build a church with soul and spirit, come build a church of flesh and
bone. We need no tower rising sky-ward; no house of wood, or glass, or
stone. Come build a church with human frailty. Come build a church of
flesh and blood. Jesus shall be its sure foundation. It shall be built by the
hand of God.**

BENEDICTION

Today and every day,
take care of one another,
knowing that each of you is God's gift
to this community and to the world.

**I Will Survive, An Intergenerational Liturgy for the Eighteenth Sunday after
Pentecost**, was written by the Rev. Dr. Laurel Koepf Taylor, Eden Theological
Seminary, Saint Louis, Missouri.



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Due to the Corona Virus-Covid-19, this service was held in-person and live streamed on YouTube with all CDC protocols in place.

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!

Offering can also be made online through Tithely at
<https://tithe.ly/give?c=1301940>