

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



Will you come and follow me?

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost
October 10, 2021 ~ 9:30 a.m.

**Courage for Justice:
20th Sunday after the Pentecost
October 10, 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 (adapted from Hebrews 4:12-16)

One: The word of God is alive and active,
sharper than any two-edged sword,
piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow;
it can judge our thoughts and intentions of our hearts.

**Many: We cannot hide
for we are naked and laid bare
to the one whom we must render an account.**

One: Let us hold fast to our confession before Jesus who was tested as you and I and yet was without sin.

**Many: We approach the throne of grace with boldness,
so that we may receive mercy
and find grace to help in our time of need.**

***Hymn**

Clap Your Hands

CH 38

Words: Jimmy Owens, 1972 (para. Psalm 47:1)

Music: Jimmy Owens, 1972; harm. Dale Grotenhuis, 1986

**Clap your hands, all you people;
shout unto God with a voice of triumph!
Clap your hands, all you people;
shout unto God with a voice of praise!
Hosanna! Hosanna! Shout unto God with a voice of triumph!
Praise him! Praise him! Shout unto God with a voice of praise!**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

O God, you sowed the seeds of justice when you created this world.
Though your bountiful creation has enough for everyone,
it is hardly divided fairly.

There are those who struggle to get their daily bread each day
and then there are those who have more than they can use in their lifetime.
May we remember that all we have comes from you
and that you have entrusted to us all that we have.

May we take your commandments to heart so we can do as Jesus asks of us.
Grant that we, O God, use this hour to work in our ministries to end this disparity.
Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty and Holy One,
we cannot begin to count all our possessions.

We have things in our closets, our attics, and our basements.
We have things tucked away in boxes we haven't opened in years,
and still we acquire more.

We have so much stuff and yet, there are those in our communities
who can fit all their worldly possessions in a shopping cart.

We know that you, O God, will defend the poor and come to them in their need.
But we, O God, need your forgiveness

for we are more attached to our things than we willingly acknowledge.

Help us confront our attachment to possessions and things more honestly
so we can share our own abundance more equitably. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

We draw false and fleeting comfort from our material things.

True comfort comes from God's love for us

and by responding with that same love to family, friend, neighbor, and stranger.

By God's love we are forgiven. Let us do likewise. Amen.

Gospel Reading Mark 10:17-31

Message

Rev. Nancy J. White

***HYMN**

Lord, You Have Come to the Lake Shore CH 342

Words: Cesareo Gabarain, 1979;tr. Gertrude C. Suppe, George Lockwood, and Raquel Gutierrez-Achon, 1987. Music: Cesareo Gabarain, 1979; harm. Skinner Chavez-Melo, 1987

**Lord, you have come to the lakeshore
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
you only asked me to follow humbly.**

**O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shore-line behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.**

**You know so well my possessions;
my boat carries no gold and no weapons;
you will find there my nets and labor.**

**O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shore-line behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.**

**You need my hands, full of caring
through my labors to give others rest,
and constant love that keeps on loving.**

**O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shore-line behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.**

**You, who have fished other oceans,
ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
my loving friend, as thus you call me.**

**O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shore-line behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.**

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.**

OFFERING

We should not forget that our offering should be the first fruits of our labors which we dedicate to God. Not only do we honor God by this offering, but it also helps us not to keep the best of what we have for ourselves. By giving our first fruits to God, we help to ensure that those who have little will receive something and we who have much do not keep it entirely for ourselves.

***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

Generous God, we thank you for all that we have for all of it comes from you.
We gratefully return a portion of what we have to you.
May our offerings sustain and support the work of this church to close the disparity between those who have much and those who have little in this community. Amen.

***HYMN**

The Summons (vs. 1 & 2)

Words John L. Bell (1949-) © 1987 WGRG The Iona Community (Admin GIA Publications)
Music: Scottish melody; arr. John L. Bell (1949-

**Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let life be grown in you and you in me?**

**Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?**

***BENEDICTION** (Based upon Psalm 90:12, 14, 17 adapted)

Let us count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

Let God satisfy us this morning with steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Depart in peace and let God's favor be upon us to prosper the work of our hands.

Postlude

Courage for Justice: Prayers for the 20st Sunday after Pentecost was written by the Rev. Quentin Chin, member of Church on the Hill in Lenox, MA.



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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>