

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



**Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost**  
**October 17, 2021 ~ 9:30 a.m.**

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United Church of Christ  
North Yarmouth, Maine  
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost  
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*"... Never place a period where God has placed a comma. ..."* **Gracie Allen**  
*"...The Word of the Lord endures forever." (1 Peter 1:25)*

**PRELUDE**

**SING**                    ***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**

Life is an indescribable gift.

***Our worship is a celebration of that gift.... And the giver.***

In our worship we rediscover

***God's marvelous affirmation of life.***

This morning we invite you to bring all that you are into worship.

***We bring our struggles and failures,  
our joys and fears, our faith and our doubts.***

***We bring our culture, our whole selves.***

Bring your true self and be at home now.

***Let us worship God who we know best in Jesus the Christ.***

**\*HYMN *God Reigns O'er All the Earth (1 all, 2 men, 3 women, 4 all a capella)***

*NCH 21*

Words: Jane Parker Huber, 1981

Music: Traditional English melody, Adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915

**God reigns o'er all the earth! Green hills and valleys low,  
the farms and towns in golds and browns God's grace and beauty show.  
God reigns o'er all the earth! Stone banks and spreading plains, rainbow  
hues red, yellows, blues of streams and country lanes.**

**God reigns o'er human life! Through youth and aging years,  
in death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears.  
God reigns o'er human life. Our inspiration still. Through all our schemes,  
in all our dreams, we see God's reigning will.**

**God reigns o'er time and space! In history's by-gone days,  
Christ's faithful folk in reverence spoke to bring God earnest praise.  
God reigns o'er time and space! O'er galaxy and sun,  
through time-less years the cosmos hears the heavenly music run.**

**God reigns! Emmanuel! God with us every day,  
in all our past and to the last, our comfort and our stay.  
God reigns! Emmanuel! Let praise to Christ be sung!  
God's presence here makes all things dear. Let joyful bells be rung!**

#### **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

***Holy One, you brilliantly created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the  
dignity of human nature. In your mercy, lead us by your Spirit to share in  
the divine life of Jesus the Christ who shared our humanity. Lead us to live  
into more fully what it means that you are with us, Emmanuel. We love you,  
and we praise you. Amen.***

#### **CONFESSION**

***God of perfect light, lead us as we journey through life. Forgive us when,  
like Herod, selfish ambition makes us willing to hurt and destroy others.  
Forgive us when, unlike the magi, we refuse to follow the light you give us.  
Shine in our lives through the light of your Christ, in whose name we pray.  
Amen.***

#### **WORDS OF AFFIRMATION**

Hear again the Good News:

***With light, truth, and grace, God, in Christ, surrounds us with a love that  
will not let us go.***

Believe the Good News!

***God calls us each by name, welcomes us to the manger, the cross, the  
empty tomb, and into the people of faith of the church.***

***Thanks be to God.***

**GOSPEL READING**    *Mark 4:26-34*

**\*HYMN**

***Come, O Fount of Every Blessing***

**NCH 459**

Words: Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.

Music: Nettleton 8.7.8.7. D. John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

**Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of endless praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.**

**Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come,  
come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God,  
Came to rescue me from danger, blessed body, precious blood.**

**O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.  
Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known:  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your very own.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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**

**\*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.***

**\*DEDICATION**

***Generous God, you have given each one of us bountiful gifts, so we offer this  
money in gratitude and love. May our gifts today be used for your work in the  
world. Amen.***

**\* HYMN**

***Oh for a Thousand Tongues to Sing***

**NCH 42**

Words: Charles Wesley, 1740; alt.

Music: Carl G. Glaser, 1828

**O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise.  
The glories ever echoing the triumphs of God's grace!**

**My gracious Savior and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.**

**Jesus! The name that calms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease  
Is music in the sinner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!**

**Glory to God, and love and praise be ever, ever given  
By all the saints in every age, the church in earth and heaven.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

**SOME PREDICTIONS AS WE SOW TOGETHER**

1. The Bible will continue to hold the answers.
2. Prayer will continue to be most powerful.
3. The Holy Spirit will continue to move.
4. God will continue to honor the praises of the people.
5. There will continue to be God-anointed service.
6. There will continue to be singing of praise to God.
7. God will continue to pour out blessings upon the world.
8. There will continue to be room at the Cross.
9. Jesus Christ will continue to love us.
10. God, in Christ, will continue heal and make us whole.

## Staff

Pastor: Rev. Nancy J. White  
Administrative Assistant: Lyn Glassock  
Organist: Peter Dickson\*  
Organist: Linda Lambrides  
Choir Director: David Myers, Jr.  
Sexton: Mark R.H. Heath  
Treasurer: Liz McGlinn, CPA, CGMA

Thank you to Rev. Ed DeLong for serving as our guest pastor today.

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Church Website: <http://nyccucc.com>  
Maine Conference Website: [www.maineucc.org](http://www.maineucc.org)  
YouTube: [youtube.com/c/nyccucc](https://www.youtube.com/c/nyccucc)

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](mailto: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>