

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

**A SPIRITUAL  
GIFT IS GIVEN  
TO EACH OF US  
SO WE CAN  
HELP EACH  
OTHER.**

1 Corinthians 12:7

**The Second Sunday after Epiphany  
January 16, 2022 ~ 9:30 a.m.**

# Holy Gifts for a Holy Day

## Service Prayers for the Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 16, 2022

Prelude

Gather us in

Rebecca te Velde

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 CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: This day is holy to our Wise God!

**ALL: We gather to listen for God's word,  
to discern God's will to worship with God's people.**

Leader: This day is holy to our Joyful God!

**ALL: *We are members of Christ's body,  
Christ's family, Christ's church.***

Leader: This day is holy to our Powerful God!

**All: The Spirit of God is upon us,  
and we have been anointed to bring good news to all.**

Leader: This day is holy to our Sweet God!

**All: *May the words in our mouths and the thoughts in our hearts  
delight you, O God.***

**All: Let us worship our Holy God!**

Hymn

Gather Us In CH284

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 buildings, small and confining, not in some heaven, light years  
a-way, here in this place the new light is shining; now is God present, and  
now is the day.**

**Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our  
bone.**

#### **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**You gather us from our separate lives, Great God,  
to hear your word and respond to your revealing.  
You have appointed us for the work of your church.  
We seek your guidance, your wisdom, your way.  
Help us to perceive and understand your law,  
and then to follow you faithfully, as your people.  
Bind us together with you in worship,  
and transform us from distinct persons  
into the Body of Christ,  
alive with your Spirit in this place.**

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**We confess to you, Gracious God,  
that too often we look on your law as a burden, not a gift;  
an inconvenience, not a blessing.  
Rather than seeing your love revealed,**

we feel our own guilt magnified.  
Instead of rejoicing in your good news,  
we focus on our own shortcomings.  
Turn us around, Redeemer,  
and do not let our fears have dominion over us.  
Enlighten us, so that our words and deeds may be acceptable to you.  
Amen.

## **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE**

In spite of our individual inadequacies,  
God has called us together to be Christ's Body,  
and each one of us is indispensable.  
God re-members us, giving each of us distinct gifts,  
equipping each of us to provide guidance and accountability for one  
another, that we all may become more faithful followers of Christ.  
We are all greater as one Body than any single member of us could be on  
our own.

## **PASSING THE PEACE**

### **Choral Anthem**

Gospel Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-12

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be  
uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led  
astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no  
one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one  
can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of  
services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the  
same God who activates all of them in everyone.

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the  
utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same  
Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of

miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Message

Rev. Nancy J. White

Song of Response      Won't You Let me be your servant      CH490

Words: Richard Gillard, 1977, alt.

Music: Richard Gillard, 1977; arr. A. Eugene Ellsworth, 1994

**Sister, let me be your servant, brother,  
let me walk with you; pray that I may  
have the grace to let you be my servant too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow  
trav'lers on the road. We are here to  
help each other walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will weep when you are weeping, when you  
laugh I'll laugh with you. I will share your  
joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven, we shall  
find such harmony, born of all we've  
known together of great love and agony.**

**Brother, let me be your servant, sister,  
let me walk with you; pray that I may  
have the grace to let you be my servant too.**

Prayers of the People

**Sharing Prayer Requests of Joys and Concerns**

**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.**

## **INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

We all can – and must! – contribute in some way to the Body of Christ and the work of Christ’s church.

Paul reminds us that we “are the Body of Christ and individually members of it.” We are asked to share this Body with God’s world.

Each part has something to contribute to the whole.

Let us be faithful to God and to this Body as we share what we can this morning

### **\*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.**

## **BLESSING OF THE GIFTS**

**Bless, O Lord, these gifts and offerings,**

**that they may be a sign of our intent to serve you.**

**Use them and us to bring good news to the poor,**

**proclaim release to the captives,**

**and bring wholeness and healing to all who are hurting and oppressed.**

**If one of your people suffers, we all suffer;**

**but if one of your people is honored, we all rejoice together,  
in your name. Amen.**

Sending Song                      Community of Christ    CH655

Words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1985

Music: Hebrew melody; arr. Meyer Leoni, 1780

**Community of Christ, who makes the cross your own,**

**live out your creed and risk your life for God alone:**

**the God who wears your face, to whom all worlds belong,**

**whose children are of every race and every song.**

**Community of Christ, look past the church’s door**

and see the refugee, the hungry, and the poor.  
Disarm the powers that war and all that can destroy,  
take towel and water, that you wash your neighbor's feet.

Community of Christ, through whom the word must sound-  
cry out for justice and for peace the whole world round:  
disarm the powers that war and all that can destroy,  
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish into joy.

When menace melts away, so shall God's will be done,  
The climate of the world be peace the whole world round:  
Our currency be love and kindness our law,  
our food and faith be shared as one for ever more.

## **BENEDICTION**

Go your way, united as one Body  
and rejoicing in the fulfillment of God's word among you.  
We do not all have the same gifts,  
but we are blessed to be able to share what we have  
with one another and with all creation.  
May the joy of the Lord be your strength this day, and every day.  
**Amen and amen**

## **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

Praise to the Living God

E. broughton



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Due to the Corona Virus-Covid-19, this service was recorded  
and streamed on YouTube.

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