

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



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

**“I am God’s Beloved!”**

**Renewing Baptismal Promises:  
Service Prayers for First Sunday after Epiphany,  
The Baptism of Christ  
January 9, 2022**

Prelude

Be Thou My Vision

E. Broughton

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 (1)**

One: Sisters and brothers, today we recall:  
Jesus came to the waters of baptism.

**All: In baptism, our Creator claims us  
and frees us from the power of hatred and death.**

One: In baptism we are joined to Christ  
and we are joined together in unity, recalling

**All: “There is no longer Jew or Greek  
there is no longer slave or free  
there is no longer male or female  
for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”**

One: In baptism, the Spirit of God anoints us for ministry  
and makes us signs of divine love.

It is the mark of acceptance into the church



**Help us believe.  
And help our unbelief.**

## **ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

One: Thus says the God who created you and formed us in God's image:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.”  
This is the good news!

**All: I belong to God.**

## **PASSING THE PEACE**

**Choral Anthem Down to the River to Pray**

Gospel Reading: *Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22*

Message

Rev. Nancy J. White

## **REMEMBRANCE OF OUR BAPTISMS**

### **REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISMAL PROMISES**

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God,  
to be a disciple, to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,  
to resist oppression,  
to show love and justice,  
and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ,  
as best you are able?

*(Let people answer silently to themselves; pause)*

Pastor: And do you promise, according to the grace given to you,  
to grow in your faith and to be a faithful member of the church,  
celebrating Christ's presence and furthering God's mission in all the  
world?



**Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.  
Take my hearts, and by your grace make of it your dwelling place.**

**Take my love and help it grow; let my loving over flow.  
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's community.**

**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.**

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

When we give our tithes and offerings,  
we are witnesses to the transforming love of God in Christ.  
I invite you to give as generously as you have received.

**\*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**

**Accept these gifts, we humbly pray, O God.  
Let them give you honor and glory as we serve the needs of your  
people.  
And let the called and redeemed of God say, Amen**

Hymn

Here I am Lord CH452

Words: Daniel L. Schutte, 1981

Music: Daniel L. Schutte, 1981; harm. James Snyder, 1994

**I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will  
bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?**

*Here I am, Lord, Is it I, Lord?*

*I have heard you calling in the night.*

*I will go, Lord, if you lead me.*

*I will hold your people in my heart.*

**I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them, they turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?**

*Here I am, Lord, Is it I, Lord?*

*I have heard you calling in the night.*

*I will go, Lord, if you lead me.*

*I will hold your people in my heart.*

**I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?  
Here I am, Lord, Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.**

## **BENEDICTION**

Remember this week whose you are. And remember,  
“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.”

Go in the peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God!**

**“I am God’s Beloved!” Service Prayers for the First Sunday after Epiphany**, was written by the Rev. Dr. David Bahr. The questions, affirmations and recommitment of the Remembrance of Baptism have been adapted from material in Book of Worship, © 1986 Office of Church Life and Leadership.



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## 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

Church Phone: 829-3644  
Church e-mail: [nyarmouthccucc@gmail.com](mailto:nyarmouthccucc@gmail.com)

Rev. Nancy J. White phone: 207-504-6289  
Rev. Nancy J. White email: [nyccrevnancy@gmail.com](mailto:nyccrevnancy@gmail.com)

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 recorded  
and streamed on YouTube.

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>