

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

If you love me,
feed my sheep.

John 21:17

Third Sunday of Easter
May 1, 2022 ~ 9:30 a.m.

Service of Prayers for the Third Sunday of Easter

May 1, 2022 “Follow God”

Prelude The Love of God Williams/Hopson

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

Bringing in the Light ~ preparing our hearts for worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Holy One, Provider

Many: Our ever-present help

One: In our emptiness

Many: You remind us of your presence

One: In your abundance

Many: You remind us you are here

One: With a love that conquers death

Many: You remind us we are yours

One: Holy! Holy! Holy!

Many: To the Ever-present One

All: Amen.

*Hymn

Thine is the Glory

CH#218

Words: Edmund L. Budry, 1904, tr. R Birch Hoyle, 1923
Music: George Frederick Handel, 1746

**Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o’er death has won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.**

***Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won.***

**Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for our Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.**

***Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.***

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!
Life is nought without thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love.
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.**

***Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.***

Unison Invocation

The Risen One is with us
Your ways are ways of justice
Your ways are ways of peace
Your ways are ways of love
In you, our hearts are full
In your ways, we will follow

Sung Response Hear Our Prayer, O Lord #306

Words: Psalm 143:1

Music: George Whelpton, 1897

**Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord,
incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. Amen.**

Prayer of Reconciliation

**Lover of Creation,
Forgive us
We have not loved ourselves
We have not loved our neighbors
We have not followed in your ways**

**We have rebelled against your love
Forgive us**

~silence~

**Engage us
Reshape our imaginations
Trade our complacency for your courage,
Our pettiness for your possibility.
Our greed for your goodness
Our aimlessness for your adventure
Our lives for your love**

ASSURANCE

One: Open your hearts. Hear the good news.
God has not abandoned us
God has not sent us out to find our own way.
God is with us, all around us, at work within us.
In the name of all that is,
You are welcome
Into the grace, mercy, and forgiveness
Of the Creator of our hearts
**Many: Glory to Giver of Life.
All: Amen.**

PASSING THE PEACE

Choral Anthem

Gospel Reading *John 21:1-19*

Message

Rev. Nancy J. White

***Hymn**

Open my Eyes, That I May See

#586

Words and Music: Clara H. Stott, 1895

**Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou
hast for me; place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.**

***Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!***

**Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou
sendest clear; and while the wave notes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.**

**Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

**Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth
everywhere; open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.**

**Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

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.**

Song of Response: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying #305

Words and Music: Ken Medema, 1973

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**Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!**

CALL TO OFFERING

One: In a world that lives out of scarcity
You call us to a life of abundance
You offer grace and mercy

You heal us
You carry us.
In you, we live.
In you, we move.
In you, we are made whole.
Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God

Offertory

O Blessed Light of God

R.B. Farley

***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

May these gifts be used to bring life and love and liberation for this world that God so dearly loves. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Prayer at the table

CH/Page 774

**With grateful hearts, O God, we come to Christ's Table:
remembering that you spoke creation into existence and
pronounced it good;
remembering that you called servants to make your word known
and declared your reign;
remembering that you effected salvation through Jesus Christ
and reconciled us to you.**

**Be known to us now, through the gift of your spirit,
in the breaking of bread and the drinking of cup:
renew your image within us;
restore our spirits for caring service.**

**Join us with all your people everywhere in joyous praise for your
everlasting love.**

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

CH/Page 775

**O God, we thank you for uniting us by baptism in the body of Christ
and by this meal filling us with joy and hope.**

Grant that in the days ahead

**our lips which have sung your praises may speak the truth,
our eyes which have seen your love may look with compassion
on the needs of the world,**

**our hands which have held this loaf and cup
may be active in your service.**

We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Hymn**

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

#422

Words: Fred Kaan 1975

Music: Jamaican folk melody, adapt. Doreen Potter, 1975 © 1975 Hope Publishing Co.

Let us talents and tongues employ.

Reaching out with a shout of joy;

bread is broken, the wine is poured,

Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

***Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves a-bound!***

Christ is able to make us one.

At the table he sets the tone,

teaching people to live to bless,

love in word and in deed express.

***Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves a-bound!***

Jesus calls us in,

sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,

gives us love to tell, bread to share:

God (Immanuel) everywhere!

***Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves a-bound!***

*BENEDICTION

Now, may the grace of God go with us. May God's face shine upon us. May we love the world as God has loved us. May we be peace. May we be love. May God's mercy be present among us. Amen.

Postlude Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven Goss/Smith

Please hold the following folks in your hearts and prayers: Art R, Dot H, Candace S, Cathy B, Gail S, Joel, Sandra G, Vince G, Shelby D and family, Norm S, Marion G, Bill and Cindy T, Terri B, Janine D, Lyn G and all others God brings to your heart.

Follow God: Service Prayers for Easter 3C was written by Michael Anthony Howard, who serves as Minister of Faith in Action for the Living Water Association, Ohio North East, of the Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ.



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We welcome our Maine Conference Minister, Jonna Jensen,
who is worshiping with us today.

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Nancy J. White
Administrative Assistant: Lyn Glassock
Organist: Peter Dickson
Organist: Linda Lambrides*
Choir Director: David Myers-Wakeman
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Maine Conference Website: www.maineucc.org
YouTube: [youtube.com/c/nyccucc](https://www.youtube.com/c/nyccucc)

This service was recorded
and live streamed on YouTube.

If you are not receiving church emails and would like to, please send an email to nyarmouthcucc@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>

