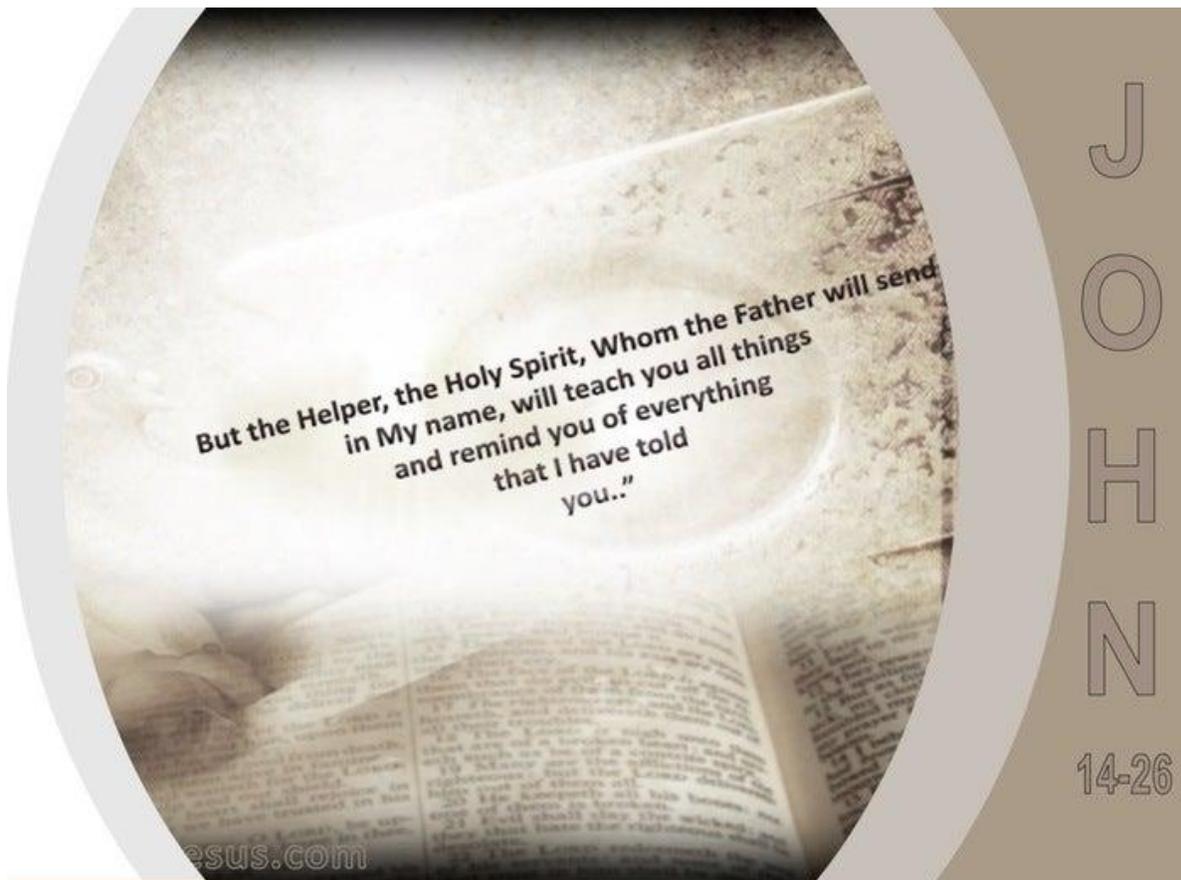


First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
3 Gray Road, North Yarmouth, Maine 04097
Organized in 1806



Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 22, 2022 ~ 9:30 a.m.

“Love of God”

Service of Prayers for the Sixth Sunday of Easter May 22, 2022

Prelude Choral Prelude on Wie Lieblich ist der Maier R. Nelson

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

Many: Let the Creator be home among us

One: In our hearts, may God be welcome

Many: May God’s love shape our every thought

One: May our actions lead to God’s justice

Many: May our words be words of life

One: May God’s Spirit lead us

Many: May God’s peace dwell within us

All: Amen.

***Hymn O Christ, We Trust Your Promise**

Words: Copyright © 2019 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Music: Tune: Johann Steurlein, 1575 ("We Come as Guests Invited") (MIDI)

**O Christ, we trust your promise that we are not alone,
for God still dwells among us to make in us a home.**

**God gives the Holy Spirit to teach us how to be
a loving, faithful people, a new community.**

**We find a real assurance within the peace you give;
the Advocate God sends us now shows us how to live.
When we're afraid or anxious, when sin is all we see,
the Spirit builds among us a new community.**

**Your love is your commandment — both old and also new.
In this world's pain, it's urgent that we live love for you.
We're called to love and welcome the poor, the refugee —
to serve with them, creating a new community.**

**So when we seek direction, remind us what is true:
the Advocate is with us to help us follow you.
Christ, guided by the Spirit, may we your people be
A loving, faithful witness in this community.**

INVOCATION

God's love is our nourishment
God's truth, our liberation
God's words, our wisdom
God's peace, our home
Welcome to the love of God

CONFESSION

We have not yet learned to love as you love
We have spoken praise in our mouths
When our hearts were far from you
The gifts you gave for our peace
We have weaponized
Yet, even in our failings
Your love has never failed us
Even when we turned you away
You still choose to make your home among us
Our hearts are troubled
We are enmeshed in fear
Creation needs you
Our families need you
Our streets need you
Our cities need you
The soil needs you
Our souls need you
Heal us

Forgive us
Make us whole again

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Beloved of God, hear the good news.
God's faithfulness is sure
God's love will not fail us
In accordance with God's lovingkindness
You are forgiven
You are welcome
You are home

Many: Glory to love of God.

All: Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

Choral Anthem

SCRIPTURE John 14:23-29

Message

Rev. Nancy J. White

***Hymn**

Blessed Quietness

CH#267

Words: Manie P. Ferguson, c. 1897

Music: W.S. Marshall, c. 1897; arr. J. Jefferson Cleveland and Verolga Nix, 1981,
alt.

Joys are flowing like a river, since the comforter has come;

Christ abides with us forever, makes the trusting heart a home.

Blessed quietness, holy quietness, what assurance in my soul.

On the stormy sea, Jesus speaks to me, and the billows cease to roll.

**Bringing life and health and gladness all round, this heavenly Guest
banished unbelief and sadness, changed our weariness to rest.**

Blessed quietness, holy quietness, what assurance in my soul.

On the stormy sea, Jesus speaks to me, and the billows cease to roll.

Like the rain that falls from heaven, like the sunlight from the sky,

so the Spirit too is given, coming on us from on high.

Blessed quietness, holy quietness, what assurance in my soul.

On the stormy sea, Jesus speaks to me, and the billows cease to roll.

See, a fruitful field is growing, blessed fruit of righteousness;

And the streams of life are flowing in the lonely wilderness.

Blessed quietness, holy quietness, what assurance in my soul.

On the stormy sea, Jesus speaks to me, and the billows cease to roll.

What a wonderful salvation, when we always see Christ's face,

what a perfect habitation, what a quiet resting place.

Blessed quietness, holy quietness, what assurance in my soul.

On the stormy sea, Jesus speaks to me, and the billows cease to roll.

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.

CALL TO OFFERING

One: Our God does not give as the world gives

In the chaos, God is our peace

In our fear, God is our confidence

In our weakness, God is our strength

Let us offer our gifts to God

Many: Thanks be to God

All: Amen

Offertory

Horsley

P. Moore

***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 build the Beloved Community through our hands of service, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and in the name of Jesus, our Messiah. Amen.

***Hymn** Sweet, Sweet Spirit CH#261
Words and Music: Doris Akers, 1962

**There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
there are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.**

**Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived when we
shall leave this place.**

*** BENEDICTION**

May the love of God go with us. May God's love saturate our memories. May God's love overwhelm us. God is love. As we carry God's love within us, may we carry God's love to the world around us. Go forth in the love of God. Amen.

Postlude Musette from Suite du 3rd ton Michel Corrette

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Love of God: Service Prayers for Easter 6C was written by Michael Anthony Howard, who serves as Minister of Faith in Action for the Living Water Association, Ohio NorthEast, of the Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ.

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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 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>