

***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 8, 2022 ~ 9:30 a.m.**

# Service of Prayers for the Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 8, 2022

“Follow God”

Prelude

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

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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

### **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**

**Solo - 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.**

## **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.**

**Solo - 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

**\*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.

**Sending Hymn      Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us      #231**

Words: Ralph Wright, 1989, alt.

Music: William Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825; harm. Charles Anders, 1969, alt

**Sing of one who walks beside us and this day is living still,  
one who now is closer to us than the thoughts our hearts distill,  
Christ who once upon a hilltop, raised against the power of sin,  
died in love as his own creatures crucified their God and Friend!**

**We have walked with him as strangers through the journey of the day, and have told him of the violence that has swept our hope away. He has offered words of comfort, words of energy and light. Did our hearts not blaze within us as he broke the bread this night?**

**Risen one, stay with us, raise us, once again the night is near.  
Dine with us and share your wisdom, free our hearts from ev'ry fear. In the calm of each new evening, in the freshness of each dawn, if you hold us fast in friendship we will never be alone.**

## \*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

*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.*

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***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.



**[Easter-3C-May-1](#)**

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## Staff

Pastor: Rev. Nancy J. White  
Administrative Assistant: Lyn Glassock  
Organist: Peter Dickson\*  
Organist: Linda Lambrides  
Choir Director: David Myers-Wakeman  
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)

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