

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



**Third Sunday after Pentecost
June 26, 2022 ~ 9:30 a.m.**

May we dream challenging dreams of both depth and precision. Speak through the dark. Dispel by lightning's bright spark whatever clouds dim our vision.

Break the sun's rays into color, a rainbow around us. Storm clouds, though real and near, are not enough to confound us. Arched in the sky, beauty and promise are high, giving us hope to astound us.

***Invocation**

Liberating One, we keep you before us. Our souls rejoice and our hearts are gladdened. Our very beings find safety and security in your presence. We approach you with thanksgiving and anticipation. Enliven us to be your people in the world. Embolden us to live in freedom. Empower us to be your good news. Stand up in us and show us the path of life. Amen.

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Restoring God, too often we accept the conditions of the world around us and impose limitations on what is possible. We bind ourselves to societal conventions, norms, and pressure rather than follow you and your way. We conform to the values of this world rather than pursue the fruit of the Spirit. Show us the path of life and freedom in you. Teach us to plant seeds of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. May we perennially bear that fruit.

Words of Grace

The Guiding Spirit open us to new life and lead us to right paths. Hear the voice that continually calls, leads, and companions with us. Life in the Spirit is constantly renewed and restored. Let the grace of God nurture our roots and allow our flourishing.

PASSING THE PEACE

SCRIPTURE

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Message

Rev. Nancy J. White

***Hymn** Of All the Spirit's Gifts to Me #270
Words: Red Pratt Green, 1979 Music: John B. Dykes, 1865

**Of all the Spirit's gifts to me,
I pray that I may never cease to take and
treasure most these three: love, joy, and peace.**

**The Spirit shows me love's the root
of every gift sent from above, of every
flower, of every fruit, that God is love.**

**The Spirit shows if I possess
a love no evil can destroy; however
great is my distress, then this is joy.**

**Though what's ahead is mystery,
and life itself is ours on lease, each day the
Spirit says to me, "Go forth in peace!"**

**We go in peace, but made aware
That, in a needy world like this, our clearest
purpose is to share love, joy, and peace.**

Prayers of the People

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 Generosity

Jesus invites us to follow him in all ways, including the use and sharing
of our resources. An accounting of our time, talent, and treasure that

reflects our active citizenship in the kingdom brings glory to the Holy One. These seeds bear fruit.

***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.**

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving

Giver of Gifts, receive the resources we bring. May they bless our community and our world. May bonds of scarcity be broken as we meet the needs around us with the gifts that you have first given to us. May we be gladdened by giving and rejoice in generosity. Amen.

***Hymn**

Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race

#485

Words: Ruth Duck, 1991 Music: Thomas Tallis, 1561

**Diverse in culture, nation, race,
we come together by your grace.
God, let us be a meeting ground
where hope and healing love are found.**

**God, let us be a bridge of care
connecting people everywhere.
Help us confront all fear and hate
and lust for power that separate.**

**When chasms widen, storms arise,
O Holy Spirit, make us wise.
Let our resolve, like steel, be strong
to stand with those who suffer wrong.**

**God, let us be a table spread
with gifts of love and broken bread,
where all find welcome, grace attends,
and enemies arise as friends.**

*** Benediction**

As you go in the world, stand firm in the freedom of Christ. Be guided and live by the Spirit. Glorify God and bear fruit. Amen.

Postlude

Freedom and Fruit: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday after Pentecost were written by Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, 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 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>