

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



Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 14, 2022 ~ 9:30 a.m.

Service of Prayers for the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost August 14, 2022

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

Call to Worship:

*One: We have sensed God's presence throughout the past week.
Now we gather to worship.*

**All: We saw God whenever our vision looked beyond the cloudiness
of fears to the bright clarity of hope.**

*One: We tasted God whenever we savored the scriptures
or let the ways of Christ flavor our actions.*

**All: We heard God whenever we were deaf to unkindness
but alert for words of love and understanding.**

*One: We smelled God whenever we breathed in the freshness of the morning
and felt gratitude fill our hearts as clean air filled our lungs.*

All: We touched God whenever we extended or received a helping hand.

One: God is with us always in Spirit and in truth – there to be sensed and known.

**All: With thanks for God's presence, we come together this morning
to worship.**

***Hymn All People That on Earth Do Dwell #18**
Words: William Kethe, 1561, alt. Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551

**All people that on earth do dwell, sing out your faith with cheerful voice;
delight in God whose praise you tell, whose presence calls you to rejoice.**

**Know that there is one God, indeed, who fashions us without our aid, who
claims us, gives us all we need, whose tender care will never fade.**

**Enter the sacred gates with praise, with joy approach the temple walls.
Extol and bless our God always as people whom the Spirit calls.**

Proclaim again that God is good, whose mercy is forever sure, whose truth at all times firmly stood, and shall from age to age endure.

***Invocation:** O God of the morning and evening hours, let your Spirit come on us here gathered. This is the holy place where we, your people, call on you in faith, joining heart and voice in thanksgiving and praise to your name. Amen.

Confession:

One: We busy ourselves with our own agendas, but God continues to have a better plan for us. Stop now and evaluate your relationship with God as we pray together....

All: Compassionate and caring God, we find the process of letting go of our way a strain upon us. We know that what is demanded of us is often more than we offer. We decline to let go of things that poison us – vengeful thoughts, self-righteous judgments, unconfessed guilt, un-confronted prejudices.

We hesitate to let go of things that hinder our personal growth – lingering hurts, hard feelings, unreconciled grievances, unresolved griefs.

We refuse to let go of things that tempt us – enticements away from our values, neglects of our faith commitments, rejections of your will, suppression of our boldest hopes.

Free us toward being able to let go of all that is more hurtful than holy, we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Words of Assurance: *However we distance ourselves from God, a reconciling love embraces us. Forgiveness signals its power, and joy confirms our release. So with thanks in our hearts, let us give praise to God.*

Passing the Peace:

Scripture: Luke 12: 49-56
Hebrews 12:1-2

Sermon: "Eyes On The Prize" Rev Diane Bennekamper

***Hymn** God Made from One Blood #500

Words: Thomas H. Troeger, 1989, rev. 1995

Music: Welsh folk melody

**God made from one blood all the families of earth,
the circles of nurture that raised us from birth,
companions who join us to walk through each stage**

of child-hood and youth and adulthood and age.

**We turn to you, God, with our thanks and our tears
for all of the families we've known through the years,
the intimate net-works on whom we de-pend
of parent and partner and room-mate and friend.**

**We learn through our families how close-ness and trust
in-crease when our actions are loving and just.
Yet families have also dis-tort-ed their roles,
mis-treating their members and bruising their souls.**

**Give, Lord, to each family in conflict and storm
a sense of your wisdom and grace that transform
sharp anger to in-sight which strengthens the heart
and makes clear the place where re-building can start.**

**Then wid-en that wisdom and grace to in-clude
the races and view-points our families ex-clude
till peace in each home bears and nurtures the bud
of peace shared by all you have made from one blood.**

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: God has called us to a ministry of service: water for the
thirsty, comfort for those who grieve, healing for ones in pain. This is the
moment to offer our time and strength as well as money, that God's will
may be realized among us.**

***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: Thank you, gracious God, for making your home with us and claiming us as your own. We dedicate ourselves and our gifts toward the new world you are creating. May your love be reflected in our attitudes and action when we are together and when we are scattered. Amen.**

***Hymn: Called as Partners in Christ's Service #453**
Words: Jane Parker Huber, 1981 Music: John Zundel, 1870

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace, we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace. May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend, equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's in-spiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth, let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth. Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old, blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense, help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence. Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care, bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human live that surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife. Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase, messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

* Benediction

Postlude

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Staff

Guest Pastor: Rev. Diane Bennekamper

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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>