

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



Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 28, 2022 ~ 9:30 a.m.

August 28, 2022
The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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
Text: © 2008, GIA/Iona Community / WGRG

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship:

One: We gather as one Body, seeking to walk the way Jesus Christ has set forth for us:

All: To give as generously to others as God has given to us,

One: To love without judgment - of ourselves or of others,

All: To show compassion to strangers and friends alike.

One: We gather as one Body,

All: To worship the God who is Love

***Hymn O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing CH#5**

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.

Music: Carl G. Glaser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great redeemer's praise, the glory of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace.

Jesus! The name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease; 'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health and peace.

My loving Savior and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread through all the earth abroad, the honors of thy name.

Glory to God and praise and love be ever, ever given by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.

***Invocation**

Hospitable God, you invite us to a sumptuous banquet where the last will be first, and the humble and the mighty trade places. May we share your abundance with no fear of scarcity, and may we greet strangers as angels you have sent! Send your Spirit now, we pray, so that we may find a place at your table and welcome others with radical hospitality. In the name of Jesus, Guest at all our tables, we pray. Amen.

Confession:

One: Despite all the ways we gloss over sin - failures, mistakes, inherent weaknesses - Scripture tells us that, in the end, we are stubborn, wanting only our way. However, if we pause to listen to God, if we open our mouths (and our hearts) to confess our sin, God will fill our emptiness with forgiveness and hope. And so let us pray together:

All: We are always uncomfortable, Watching God, when you notice how we want to sit in the seats of honor. We can be so proper, so good, so well-off, that it is easy to imagine we are superior to the poor and marginalized. We are so busy completing our 'To Do' list each day that we forget to simply do good when we have the chance.

Forgive us, Welcoming God. Fill our emptiness with your grace and humility so we can joyfully spend our lives alongside Jesus, our Lord and Savior, throwing a party for the poor, the damaged, the prisoner, the lost, the oppressed.

Silence is kept

Words of Assurance:

This is the good news: We are new people, graced by our loving God. Forgiven, embraced, welcomed, we can offer open hearts and serving hands to everyone we meet. Thanks be to the Holy One.

Passing the Peace:

Scripture: Luke 14:1, 7-14

Sermon:

The Blue Plate Special

Rev Nancy Foran

***Hymn**

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

NCH#539

Words: Richard Gillard, 1977, alt.

Music: Richard Gillard, 1977; arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; adapt.

**Won't, you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travelers on the road;
We are here to help each other go the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shadow of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.**

**Won't, you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**

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 loves everybody. But what God loves about cheerful givers is that they get it. They get the connection between spiritual growth and generosity. They get that giving is itself a blessing to the giver. They get it. Not that those who aren't in a position to give don't get it. But there are far more of those who can and don't, and those who think they can't, but probably could.

***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:**

God of grace, it is our delight and our devotion to give these gifts to you. All we are and all we have are yours alone. Accept this joyful offering, we pray, as a token of our abiding love. Use it to bring peace, justice, and comfort to all the world, Amen.

***Hymn: Go, My Children, with My Blessing CH#431**

Words: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983

Music: Traditional Welsh melody; harm. Ralph Vaugan Williams

**Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone;
waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own;
in my love's baptismal river, I have made you mine forever,
go, my children, with my blessing you are my own.**

**Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure,
here you learned how much I love you, I can cure;
here you heard my Son's dear story, here you touched him,
saw his glory, go, my children, sins forgiven at peace and pure.**

**Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;
grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you, here his tender comfort stilled you;
go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.**

*** Benediction**

Postlude

Hymns/songs licensed under One License #A-73187 and CCLI #48404708

Staff

Guest Pastor: Rev. Nancy Foran
Administrative Assistant: Lyn Glassock
Organist: Peter Dickson
Pianist: Jesse Myers-Wakeman*
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

Church Website: <http://nyccucc.com>
Maine Conference Website: www.maineucc.org
YouTube: [youtube.com/c/nyccucc](https://www.youtube.com/c/nyccucc)

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>