

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



**I do set my bow in the cloud,  
and it shall be for  
a token of a covenant  
between me and the earth.**

**Genesis 9:13**

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 11, 2022 ~ 9:30 a.m.  
Patriot Day**

# Order of Worship

## 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

Jesus proclaimed God's salvation to earlier generations who ended up in the prison of judgment because they wouldn't listen. Even though God waited patiently all the days that Noah built the ark, only a few were saved . . . saved *from* the water *by* the water. The waters of baptism do that for you, not by washing away dirt from your skin but by presenting you through Jesus' resurrection before God with a clear conscience. Jesus has the last word on everything and everyone . . . .

1 Peter 3:19-22 (*The Message*)

## Call to Worship

adapted from *PCUSA Liturgical Resources*

Leader: Let us focus on God's Presence and Promise.

In the midst of a world where people hunger and thirst ...

People: **We turn to God Who feeds the hungry.**

Leader: In the midst of a world where people are abused and oppressed ...

People: **We turn to God Who calls for compassion and justice.**

Leader: In the midst of a world filled with wars and rumors of war ...

People: **We turn to God Who desires peace for the world.**

Leader: In the midst of a world of spiritual emptiness ...

People: **We turn to God Who gives life meaning.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord . . .

People: **Whose grace and love know no end!**

## Invocation (in unison)

Let us pray: **O God, our hope and refuge, the shock and horror of 21 years ago have subsided, replaced with a longing for innocence lost. We come in remembrance, and we come in hope, not in ourselves, but in you. We give you thanks for your presence in time of need, and we seek to worship you this day in spirit and in truth. Amen.**

**\*Hymn: “God of Grace and God of Glory” – vv. 1, 2, 3 & 5**

**CH #464**

Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930 Music: John Hughes, 1907

**God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;  
crown thine ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.**

**Lo! the hosts of evil round us, scorn thy Christ, assail thy ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the  
living of these days.**

**Cure thy children's warring madness, bend our pride to thy control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy righteous goal,  
lest we miss thy righteous goal.**

**Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;  
let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore,  
serving thee whom we adore.**

### **Lament & Confession (a responsive prayer)**

**L:** God of grace and God of glory, we remember the heinous attack on 9/11 that launched over 20 years of war in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere; and we grieve the loss of almost 3,000 lives on that day, and the million lives lost in the on-going “war on terror.” With the Psalmist we cry out, “How long, O Lord? How long?”

**P:** **Lo! the hosts of evil round us . . . Free us from the fears that long have bound us.**

**L:** War still rages in Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, and across Africa, even while most of our attention is drawn to Ukraine. We lament the continuing devastation and tremendous waste of resources. With the Psalmist we cry out, “How long, O Lord? How long?”

**P:** **Cure your children’s war-ring madness.**

**L:** God, we remember also the heroic self-sacrifice of First Responders on 9/11, and our sons and daughters who stepped forward to serve in our armed forces. We grieve the loss of our sense of national unity and the squandering of international goodwill in the years since.

**P: Take away our misplaced pride, and shame our wanton, selfishness, rich in things and poor in soul.**

**L: Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore.**

**P: God of grace and God of glory, grant us wisdom, grant us courage.**

### ***Silent Prayer***

### **Words of Assurance**

**1 Timothy 1:14-15, 17**

The grace of the Lord overflows with faith and love in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners . . . . To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

### **\*Passing the Peace**

**\*Hymn: “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” – vv. 1 & 4 CH #66**

Words: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867. Alt. Music: Welsh folk melody

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light,  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all praises we render: O help us to see  
that only the splendor of light hideth thee.**

### **Scripture**

**excerpts from Genesis, ch. 6—9**

### **Sermon:**

**“The Sign of the Covenant”**

**Pastor Day**

### **\*Hymn:**

**“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”**

**CH #86**

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923 Music: William M. Runyan, 1923

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

***Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;***

*all I have needed thy hand hath provided –  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,  
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided –  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with then thousand beside!

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided –  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

## 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.

### Call to Offering

God set a bow in the sky as a sign of God's promise to preserve all creation and of God's covenant with us. May we be ever mindful of God's promise, so that we might honor our covenant with 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.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)**

**We bring what we have, God—our good intentions, our mixed motives, our small gifts. None of them, we know, is good enough, but we offer them anyway. And we dare to affirm that you receive them and use them; in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**\*Hymn: "God Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" CH #439**

Words: Attr. John Fawcett, 1773, alt.

Music: The EM&R, 1792; harm. The Methodist Hymn and Tune Book, 1889, alt.

**God, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.  
O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.**

**Thanks we give and adoration for your gospel's joyful sound.  
May the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound;  
ever faithful, ever faithful to the truth may we be found.**

**\*Closing Prayer (in unison)**

*Worship Ways*

**Lead us, O Lord.**

**Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth.**

**Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.**

**Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.**

**Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe. Amen.**

**Postlude**

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**Staff**

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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](mailto: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>