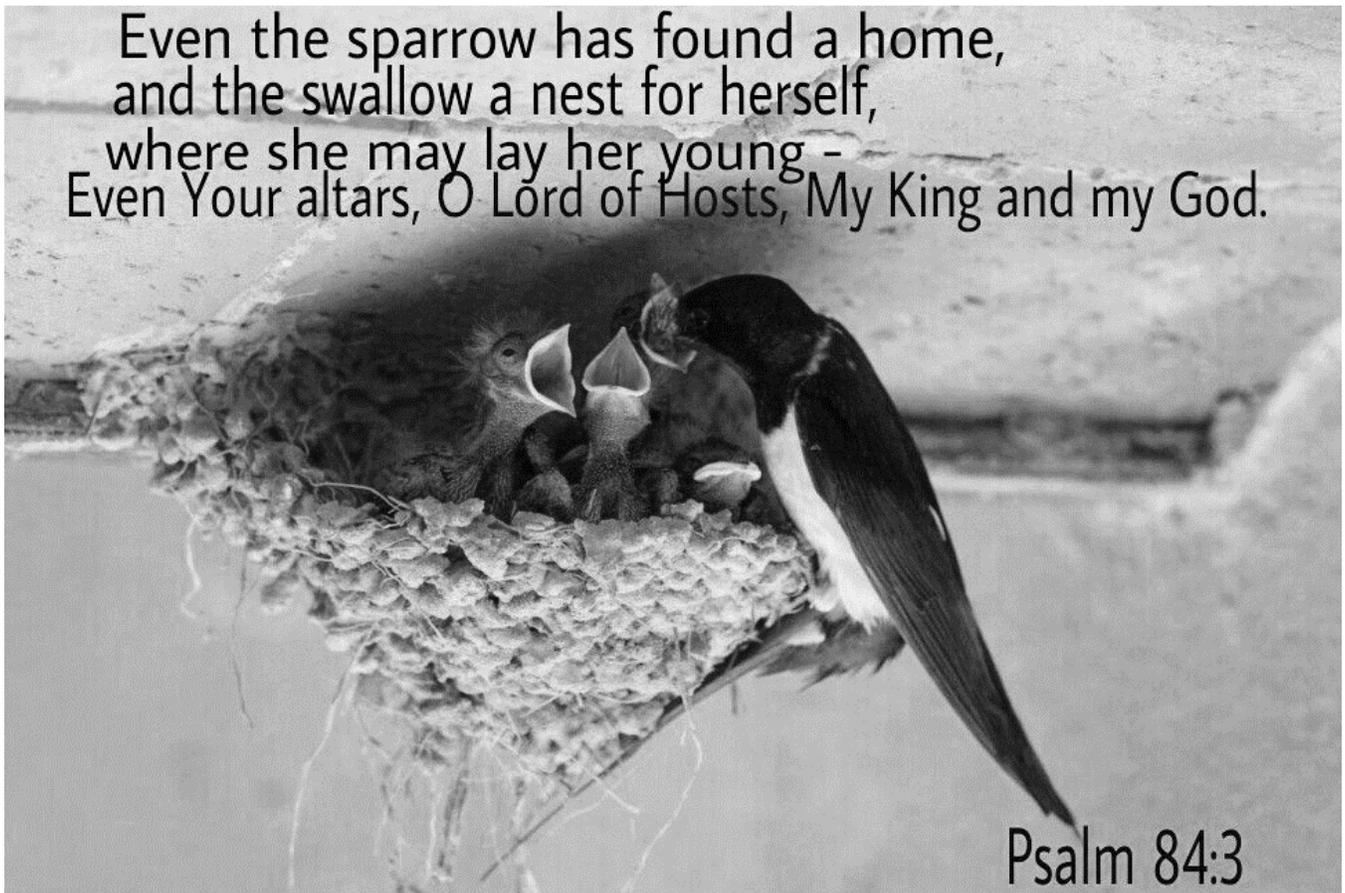


***First Congregational Church***  
United Church of Christ  
3 Gray Road, North Yarmouth, Maine 04097  
**Organized in 1806**

Even the sparrow has found a home,  
and the swallow a nest for herself,  
where she may lay her young -  
Even Your altars, O Lord of Hosts, My King and my God.



Psalm 84:3

**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**October 23, 2022 ~ 9:30 a.m.**

**October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month**  
**National Domestic Violence Hotline: 800 799-SAFE (7233)**  
**On-line Resources: [www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org)**  
**October 23, 2022**  
**The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**

Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

**Luke 18:9-14**

**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:**

**from Psalm 84**

Pastor: How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

People: **My soul longs, indeed it faints, for the courts of the LORD;**  
**my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

Pastor: Even the sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest for herself,  
where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts,  
my King and my God.

People: **Happy are those who live in your house,**  
**ever singing your praise.**

**\*Hymn:**

***Gather Us In – vv. 1, 2 & 4***

**CH # 284**

Words and music: Marty Haugen, 1981

**Here in this place, the new light is streaming, shadows of doubt are vanished away. See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.**

***Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in; our spirits in-flame. Call to us now, and we shall a-waken; we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.***

**We are the young – our lives are a mystery; we are the old, who yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.**

***Gather us in the rich and the haughty; gather us in the proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.***

**Not just in build-ings, small and confining, not in some heaven, light years away, here in this place the new light is shining; now is God present, and now is the day.**

***Gather us in and hold us for-ever; gather us in and make us your own; gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.***

**\*Confession: (in unison)**

**from Psalm 84**

**O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob!  
Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed.  
For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.  
I would rather be a doorkeeper in your house, O God,  
than live in the tents of wickedness.**

***Silent Prayer***

**Words of Assurance**

The LORD God is a sun and shield, bestowing grace on us.  
No good thing does the LORD withhold from those who turn to God.  
O LORD of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

**Passing the Peace**



We recognize that our churches have too often been places of hurt instead of sanctuaries of refuge and spaces for healing. Pastors, priests, youth workers, and others in authority have violated their trust or abused their power. Congregations have kept silent too long – and worse! – have conspired to stifle the voices of victims and survivors.

**Lord Jesus Christ, Head of the Church, may your Spirit guide and fill us that we may always speak and act in truth and love. Restore your Church to be a place and a people of healing and hope. Amen.**

**\*Hymn: *We Are Called to Follow Jesus* CH # 465**  
Words and Music: Jim Strathee, 1978

**When pain of the world surrounds us and fills us with despair,  
when searching just confounds us with false hopes ev'ry where,  
when lives are starved for meaning and destiny is bare,  
*We are called to follow Jesus and let God's healing flow  
through us.***

**We see with fear and trembling our aching world in need,  
confessing to each other our wastefulness and greed.  
May we with steadfast caring the hungry children feed.  
*We are called to follow Jesus and let God's justice flow  
through us.***

**The Church is a holy vessel the living waters fill to  
nourish all its people God's purpose to fulfill.  
May we with humble courage be open to God's will.  
*We are called to follow Jesus and let God's Spirit flow  
through us.***

**We praise you for our journey and your abundant grace,  
your saving word that guided a struggling human race.  
O God with all creation, your future we embrace.  
*We are called to follow Jesus and let God's changes flow  
through us. We are called to follow Jesus and Let God's  
changes flow through us.***

**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:**

**from *Worship Ways***

We are invited to respond to the grace we have received with our resources, time, abilities, compassion from a deep and wide place of gratitude. Let us be generous, my friends, with repaying and paying it forward.

**\*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: (in unison)**

**God, you who have everything, we bring our offering and enter your spirit. This is your generosity to us — we can share with you in the giving and receiving of gifts. May our offerings be blessed for each use, and may we be blessed as we let go. Amen.**

**\*Hymn: *O Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life* CH # 432**

Words: James L. Merrell, 1991; Music: Alexander R. Reinagle, 1836

**O Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life, be with us now, we pray;  
direct our steps as we go forth to do your will this day.**

**O faith-ful Guide, re-new our trust in love that does not fail;  
and give us strength to work and pray, that peace may soon prevail.**

**\*Charge & Benediction**

**Postlude**

## Staff

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Paul A. Day  
Administrative Assistant: Lyn Glassock  
Organist: Peter Dickson  
Organist: Jesse Myers-Wakeman\*  
Choir Director: David Myers-Wakeman  
Sexton: Mark R.H. Heath  
Treasurer: Liz McGlinn, CPA, CGMA

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Pastor Day's phone: 207 712-9896  
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Church Website: <http://nyccucc.com>  
Maine Conference Website: [www.maineucc.org](http://www.maineucc.org)  
YouTube: [youtube.com/c/nyccucc](https://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>