

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



**Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost  
Reformation / Reconciliation Sunday  
U.C.C. Higher Education Sunday  
October 30, 2022 ~ 9:30 a.m.**

**October 30, 2022**  
**The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost**

My brothers and sisters, whenever you face various trials, consider it all joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance complete its work, so that you may be complete and whole, lacking in nothing. If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you. **James 1:2-5**

**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**

**Invocation:**

Pastor Day

This is the day you have made, O Lord, like yesterday and the days and years before—a day for us to sing, speak, and pray that your Church may listen to your call to be a people understanding of others, patient with those who differ, and loving toward those who are hostile in a troubling world. By the Spirit of Christ, re-form us through those truths which are the building blocks of reconciliation and peace. Amen.

**Call to Worship:**

from **Psalm 46**

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

People: **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change . . . .**

Pastor: God is in our midst; we shall not be moved; God will help us right early.

People: **The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

Pastor: God says, "Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth."

People: **The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

**\*Hymn**

***A Mighty Fortress Is Our God***

**CH # 65**

Words: Martin Luther, c. 1529; tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1852; adapt. Ruth Duck, 1981, 1990  
Music: Martin Luther, c. 1529; harm. From The New Hymnal for American Youth, 1930

**A mighty fortress is our God, a Bulwark never failing,  
our present help amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe, with craft and  
power great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth without an equal.**

**Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,  
but there is one who takes our side, the one of God's own choosing.  
You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he with mighty pow'r to  
save, victorious o'er the grave, Christ will prevail triumphant!**

**And though this world with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
we will not fear for God has willed the truth to triumph through us.  
The powers of darkness grim, we tremble not for them; their rage can  
endure, for lo, their doom is sure: One little word shall fell them.**

**God's word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth.  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours, through Christ, who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also. The body they may  
kill, God's truth abideth still, God's reign endures forever.**

**Confession: (in unison)**                      adapted from the prayers of Martin Luther

**Waken our hearts, O Lord, our God; make them ever watchful to serve  
You and Your purposes.**

**Disturb us with the smallness of our vision and work, and with the  
urgency of Your command to make disciples of all nations.**

**Disturb us with Your great love for sinners, and our own slowness to  
make You our greatest love.**

**Disturb us with the brevity of our lives, and with our time, talent, and  
treasure not invested in Your kingdom.**

***Silent Prayer***

**Words of Assurance**



**and seek your guidance every day. Teach us, God, how to pray.**

**Teach us to love, with strength of heart and mind, each and all human kind! Break down old walls of prejudice and hate, leave us not to our fate.**

**As you have loved and giv'n your life to end hostility and strife,  
O share you grace from heav'n above, teach us, God, how to love.**

## **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 Luke 19:5-10**

The Gospel for today tells the story of Zacchaeus, a tax collector. When the crowd blocked his view he climbed a tree just to get a glimpse of Jesus: "When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.' So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, 'He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.' Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, 'Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.'"

### **\*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)**

**Lord Jesus, with Zacchaeus we respond to your gracious welcome with generosity and with restorative justice. Use all our gifts in ways that others may see you more clearly, and those who have lost their way may be made whole. Amen.**

**\*Hymn      *The Church of Christ in Every Age – vv. 1, 3 & 5*      CH # 475**  
Words: Red Pratt Green, 1969; Music William Knapp, 1738

The Church of Christ in every age, beset by change but Spirit led,  
must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.

Then let the servant church a-rise, a caring church that longs to be  
a partner in Christ's sacrifice, and clothed in Christ's hu-man-i-ty.

We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord:  
to care for all, without reserve, and spread Christ's lib-er-at-ing word.

**\*Charge & Benediction**

**Postlude**

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Staff

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Paul A. Day  
Administrative Assistant: Lyn Glassock  
Organist: Peter Dickson  
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Choir Director: David Myers-Wakeman  
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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 [nyarmouthcucc@gmail.com](mailto:nyarmouthcucc@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>