

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



Festival of Christ the King
Thanksgiving Sunday
National Bible Week
November 20, 2022 ~ 9:30 a.m.

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Festival of Christ the King

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."
Luke 23:33-38

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

Almighty and everlasting God, you bring us and all creation together in your beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Prepare our hearts, minds, and spirits to receive exactly what we need from this time of worship. Amen.

Call to Worship

Philippians 4:4-7

Pastor: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone.

People: **The Lord is near.**

Pastor: Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

People: **And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

***Hymn**

Rejoice, the Lord Is King!

CH # 699

Words: Charles Wesley, 1746. Alt.

Music: John Darwall, 1770; desc. Sydney H. Nicholson, c. 1945

**Rejoice, the Lord is King! The risen Christ adore!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph ever-more:**

lift up your heart, lift up your voice!

lift up your heart, lift up your voice!

Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

**God's reign can never fail, Christ rules o'er earth and heaven:
the keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given:**

lift up your heart, lift up your voice!

lift up your heart, lift up your voice!

Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

**Rejoice in glorious hope! For Christ, our Judge, shall come
to glorify the saints for their eternal home:**

lift up your heart, lift up your voice!

lift up your heart, lift up your voice!

Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Confession (in unison)

**God, we proclaim your Son Jesus as Lord of lords and King of kings,
yet we hold back parts of our own lives. We want to be the ones in
control. We still seek to align ourselves and our interests with worldly
powers. We hesitate to embrace the self-sacrificial way that Jesus
modelled.**

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

**Jesus' prayer for his executioners is also his prayer for us: "Father,
forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." In God we find**

by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished,
as forward we travel from light into Light.

By law God enforces. The stars in their courses,
the sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing
with glad adoration, a song let us raise:
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving,
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

Sermon: *Narratives of the First Thanksgiving*

Pastor Day

***Hymn**

Give Thanks

CH # 528

Words and Music: Henry Smith, 1978

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Holy one,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.
Give Son. And now let the weak say " I am strong";
let the poor say "I am rich" because of what the Lord has done
for us And us. Give us. Give thanks!

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

Deuteronomy 26:1-2, 10b

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess and you possess it and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and . . . You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your 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.**

***Dedication (in unison)**

Lord God, we present these offerings in joy and gratitude for all that we have received from your hand. And we commit ourselves anew to share your blessings with those around us as we give of our time, talents and treasure to the work of your kingdom; in Jesus' name. Amen.

***Hymn**

Lead On, O King Eternal

CH # 632

Words: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1887

Music: Henry T. Smart, 1835

**Lead on, O King eternal, the day of march has come;
hence-forth in fields of conquest thy tents shall be our home;
through days of preparation thy grace has made us strong,
and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.**

**Lead on, O King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace;
for not with swords loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums;
with deeds of love and mercy, the heavenly kingdom comes.**

**Lean on, O King eternal: we follow, not with fears,
for gladness breaks like morning wher-e'er thy face appears;
thy cross is lifted o'er us; we journey in its light;
the crown a-waits the conquest; lead on, O God of Might.**

Charge & Benediction*Philippians 4:8-9**

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in one another. And the God of peace will be with you. Amen.

Postlude

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Staff

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Paul A. Day
Administrative Assistant: Lyn Glassock
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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>

or

Text "Give" to 833-751-0314