

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



First Sunday of Advent
November 27, 2022 ~ 9:30 a.m.

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The First Sunday of Advent

Salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day Put on the Lord Jesus Christ **Romans 13:11b-13a, 14a**

Prelude: *Wachet Auf* **Arr. by F. Ashdown**

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

Worship Ways

God of hope, we call on you in this hour of worship. We know that you need no invocation for you are already and always with us — Emmanuel, even before the child was born. We open our hearts to receive your gifts; for you are the Giver of hope, the Giver of peace, the Giver of joy, the Giver of love. Make your presence known as we make ourselves available to you. Amen.

Call to Worship

from Psalm 122

Pastor: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go up to the house of the Lord."

People: **Bound together by the cords of love, we come before God.**

Pastor: We come to lift up our thanks and praise to God.

People: **We come to offer prayers for peace for ourselves and our world.**

***Hymn**

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

CH # 129

Words: Georg Weissel, 1642; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1855, alt.
Music: Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789

Lift up your heads, O mighty gates; behold the glorious

**Ruler waits! The Sovereign One is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here.**

**Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple,
set apart from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.**

**Redeemer, come! We open wide our hearts to you;
here, Christ, abide! Let us your inner presence feel,
your grace and love in us reveal.**

**So come, our Sovereign; enter in!
Let new and nobler life begin;
your Holy Spirit guide us on,
until the glorious crown be worn.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Hope

Isaiah 2:4

Pastor: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Advent means coming. We prepare ourselves for the days when
"Nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears
into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither will they learn war any more."

People: **Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

***Hymn**

One Candle Is Lit - verse 1

CH # 128

Words: Mary Anne Parrott; Music: William J. Kirkpatrick

**Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,
Our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light.
Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage.
One candle is lit for the hope of the age.**

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Pastor: We gather together in this season of Advent anticipating hope,
praying for peace, attempting to cultivate joy and share love amidst
commotion, grief, despair and uncertainty.

Moment of Silence

3. **Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing,
bringing news of sins forgiv'n;
Jesus comes with words of gladness,
leading souls redeemed to heav'n.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Hope to all the world is giv'n;
hope to all the world is giv'n.**
4. **Jesus comes on clouds triumphant
when the heav'ns shall pass away.
Jesus comes again in glory; let us, then, our homage pay,
Alleluia! ever singing till the dawn of endless day;
till the dawn of endless day.**

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

As recipients of the generosity of God, let us share our generosity with each other and the community.

***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)**

For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community we dedicate these gifts. For the ways it'll help us live out God's mission we dedicate these gifts; in Jesus' name and for Jesus' sake. Amen.

***Hymn**

Come, O Long-expected Jesus

CH # 125

Words: Charles Wesley, 1744

Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830; harm. The English Hymnal, 1906

**Come, O long expected Jesus, born to set your people free.
From our fears and sins release us; Christ, in whom our rest shall be.
You, our strength and consolation, come salvation to impart;
dear desire of many a nation, joy of many a longing heart.**

**Born your people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, born your gracious realm to bring.
By your own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by your all sufficient merit raise us to your glorious throne.**

***Charge & Benediction**

Postlude

Ososo

R. Rowland-Raybold

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Advent and Christmas at North Yarmouth Congregational Church



Sundays ~ 9:30 am ~ *Worship with us*

We celebrate Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, anticipating the One who comes to us as a Child. Each week we light the Advent Wreath, sing carols of the season, and our gifted choir shares beautiful music as we prepare for Christmas.

Saturday, December 17

10 am—12 noon ~ *Nativity Display Open House*

Experience the meaning of Christmas as you view a collection of 75 Nativities from around the world, including some special ones for children and the young at heart. Enjoy a cookie and coffee, tea or hot chocolate as you visit with your neighbors.

Christmas Eve, December 24th

5:00 pm ~ *Family Christmas Worship*

Walk-on Pageant, Choir

11:00 pm ~ *Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols*

Christmas Day, December 25

*No Service ~ The 5 pm Christmas Eve Service
will be available to watch on-line*

New Year's Day, January 1

9:30 am ~ *Worship Service with Holy Communion*

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
Pastor Day's email: revpaulday@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> or text "Give" to 833-751-0314.