

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



**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**December 11, 2022 ~ 9:30 a.m.**

**December 11, 2022**  
**The Third Sunday of Advent**

Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. **James 5:7-8**

**Prelude:** **Corde Natus** **M. Archer/Blackwell**

**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** ***A New Zealand Prayerbook***

God of all hope and joy, strengthen our hearts to be patient as we wait for your kingdom of justice and peace to come in its fullness. Open our hearts in welcome, that your Son Jesus Christ at his coming may find in us a dwelling prepared for himself. Amen.

**Call to Worship** **Psalm 146:5-10**

Pastor: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God;

People: **Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;**

Pastor: Who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

People: **The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.**

Pastor: The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. The LORD watches over the strangers; and upholds the orphan and the widow . . . .

People: **The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!**

**\*Hymn**

***Joy to the World***

**CH # 143**

Words: Isaac Watts, 1719

Music: Attr. George F. Handel, 1741; arr. Lowell Mason, 1848

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!**

**Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room, and  
heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world, the savior reigns!**

**Let all their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks,  
hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove the glories of this righteousness,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

**Lighting of the Advent Candles of Hope, Peace & Joy      Isaiah 35:1-2**

Pastor: Advent means coming. We light these candles as sign of the coming light of Christ. We are preparing ourselves for the days when “the wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.”

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

**\*Hymn**

***One Candle Is Lit – verse 3***

**CH # 128**

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

**Come, festively sing while awaiting the Birth,  
Join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.  
Wave banners of Good News, lift high thankful praise.  
One candle is lit for the Joy of these days.**

**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***

**All: God, we confess that we have often placed our hope in people and things that can't fulfill our deepest needs. We have searched for peace in shallow places. We have mistaken temporary pleasure and artificial exhilaration for real and lasting joy. We have put limits on the ways we love, excluding those who need our loving kindness the most. God, when we have lost our way, show us yours. Guide us to the hope in you that will renew our strength. Lead us to your peace that transcends all understanding. Fill us with a joy we can only experience in your presence. Remind us that you have always loved us with an everlasting love, so that we may share that love with others. Amen.**

### **Words of Grace and Assurance**

Leader: In times of desolation and uncertainty, it good to know that God's love for us is sure—that God's commitment to us is definite—that God is walking with us, guiding us, as the compassionate companion that we are called to be for each other. Let us live into this gift.

### **Passing the Peace**

**Choir Anthem:           *A Little Child Will Come to Lead Us***

### **Time with God's Children**

**Scripture** **Matthew 11:2-11**

**Sermon:** ***The Desert of Maine*** **Pastor Day**

**\*Hymn** ***Once in Royal David's City*** **CH # 165**

Words: Cecil F. Alexander, 1848, alt.

Music: Henry John Gauntlett, 1849; harm. Arthur H. Mann, 1919

**Once in Royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,**

**where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was the mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.**

**Christ came down to earth from heaven, love incarnate for us all,  
and his shelter as stable and his cradle as a stall;  
with the poor, the scorned the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew,  
he was little, weak and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew.  
Thus he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;  
for that child who seemed so helpless lives and reigns in heaven  
above; and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**

### **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 calls us to keep faith alive, execute justice, feed the hungry, set  
prisoners free, open the eyes of the blind, welcome strangers, uphold the  
cause of widows and orphans, and lift up all who are bowed down.**

#### **\*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. Let these gifts strengthen our call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly; through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**\*Hymn**                      ***It Came upon the Midnight Clear***                      **CH # 153**  
Words: Edmund H. Sears, 1849; Music: Richard S. Willis, 1850

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.**

**And you beneath life's crushing load whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way, with painful steps and slow,  
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;  
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!**

**For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,  
when with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold;  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.**

**\*Charge & Benediction**                      inspired by **Isaiah 11:8-10**  
Go forth with a song in your heart as you walk through the wilderness on God's Holy Highway, for you are God's people, redeemed and set free. May everlasting joy be on your heads; may joy and gladness be yours, and sorrow and sighing flee away.

**Postlude**

Merton

M. Archer

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Staff

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Paul A. Day  
Administrative Assistant: Lyn Glassock  
Organist: Peter Dickson\*  
Organist: Jesse Myers-Wakeman  
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://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 [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> or text "Give" to 833-751-0314

**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