

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



**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**December 18, 2022 ~ 9:30 a.m.**





## **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***

Pastor: God, our Shepherd and Restorer of our souls, in a world full of hopelessness, we have sometimes forgotten that you have shown us hope in endless ways.

People: **Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may know your hope.**

Pastor: In the mirey mess of the world, we have sometimes neglected to lean into your peace that transcends comprehension.

People: **Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may know your peace.**

Pastor: In a culture shrouded in doom and despair, we have often forgotten how to fight for our joy.

People: **Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may know your joy.**

Pastor: In a moment when it is easier to hate others because they believe differently, love differently, live differently, vote differently – we have forgotten how to love beyond the bounds of what separates us.

People: **Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may know your love. Stimulate our memory, O divine Creator. Remind us that even in our weakness, you are mighty. Amen.**

## **Words of Grace and Assurance**

Leader: God has never left us nor forsaken us. God is Immanuel in the face of crisis; Immanuel, in the midst of calamity; Immanuel, in the presence of tribulation. God with us, helping our unbelief, bringing us back to life, reminding us that we are light. Let that be Good News.

## **Passing the Peace**

**Choir Anthem:**                    *Jus' a Little Farther to go*

**Time with God's Children**

**Scripture**

**Matthew 1:18-25**

**Sermon: “Joseph, being a Righteous Man . . .”**

**Pastor Day**

**\*Hymn**

***In the Bleak Midwinter***

**Tune: CRANHAM**

Words: Christina Rossetti; Music: Gustav Holst

- 1. In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone:  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**
- 2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.**
- 3. What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,  
if I were a wise man I would do my part,  
yet what I can I give him, give my heart.**

### **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**

We believe in the God of justice and righteousness, and God believes in us to carry forth the mission of loving and caring for community. We share our gifts and resources so that we may continue to walk humbly with God and with neighbors.

**\*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)**

**We dedicate these gifts that have been shared to strengthen God's beloved community. Let these gifts do justice in the world so that all may know they are loved by God; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*Hymn**

***Go, Tell It on the Mountain***

**CH # 167**

Words: African-American spiritual; adapt. John W. Work. Jr., 1907

Music: African-American spiritual; arr. William Farley Smith, 1986

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.**

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.**

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.**

**The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth,  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.**

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.**

**Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.**

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.**

**\*Charge & Benediction**

***Worship Ways***

Go forth knowing that you are loved by God; go forth leading a life that is a sign of God's grace; go forth with anticipation for kingdom that is to come. And in that going, may God bless and keep you; may God's face shine upon you; may God be gracious to you and give you peace. Amen.

**Postlude**

**Go, Tell it on the Mountain**

**A.D. Miller**

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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  
Sexton: Mark R.H. Heath  
Treasurer: Liz McGlinn, CPA, CGMA

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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://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](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> 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 18**

Nativity Display

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 looking during coffee hour.

**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

