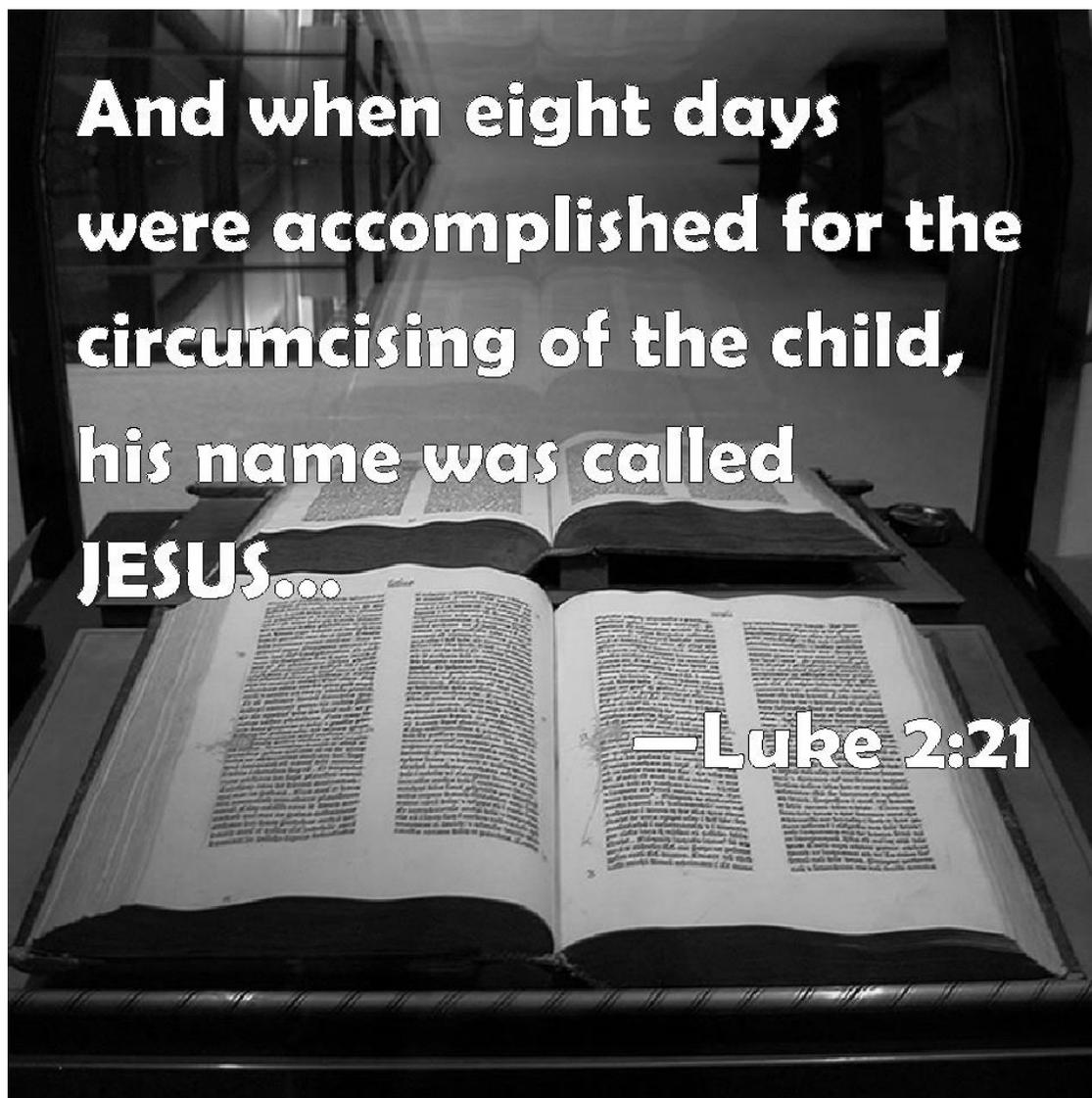


**First Congregational Church**  
United Church of Christ  
3 Gray Road, North Yarmouth, Maine 04097  
Organized in 1806



**The Eighth Day of Christmas**  
**Festival of the Holy Name of Jesus**  
**New Year's Day**  
**January 1, 2023 ~ 9:30 a.m.**

## Order of Worship

I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD . . .  
because of all that the LORD has done for us,  
that he has shown us according to his mercy,  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.  
It was no messenger or angel but God's presence that saved us;  
in his love and in his pity God redeemed us . . . .

**Isaiah 63:7, 9b** (altered)

**Prelude**

**Kings of Orient**

**Noel Rawsthorne**

**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 Love, you gather us as your offspring and knit us together with grace and mercy. In your presence, there is fullness of love, joy, hope, and peace. Thank you for being among us this day and with us in every moment of our being. Receive our praise, dwell in our midst, and create in us a heart that yearns for you and your kingdom. In the name of Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.

**Call to Worship** (Responsive)

inspired by **Psalm 148**

One: Let all creation praise the name of the Holy One!

All: **The rhythms of life praise the Everlasting God through the markings of time.**

One: Let all creation praise the name of the Holy One!

All: **The flowers, land, and trees praise the Divine Gardener through rest and renewal.**

One: Let all creation praise the name of the Holy One!

All: **All creatures praise God through our breathing, living and being. Praise the Lord!**

**\*Hymn – O God, Our Help in Ages Past – vv. 1—4**

**CH # 67**

Words: Isaac Watt, 1719, alt.

Music: Attr. William Croft, 1708; desc. Donald P. Hustad, 1989

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

Under the shadow of thy throne still may we dwell secure;  
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,  
from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight, are like an evening gone;  
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

### **Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

### ***Worship Ways***

**Eternal God, the dawn of a new year prompts us to reflect on our past and hope for our future. Help us live every day seeking your way and moving on your path. Help us commit to love and resolve to extend the grace and mercy we need from you and our neighbor. Make us new.**

### **Silent Prayer**

### **Words of Grace**

The God who counts our days knows us intimately, loves us abundantly, and abides with us relentlessly. Receive the new mercies of this day. Hold the love of God closely, firmly, and freely. Transformation, grace, and new life is assured this day.

### **Passing the Peace**

**Hymn – There’s a Song in the Air!**

**CH # 159**

Words: Josiah G. Holland, 1879, alt. Music: Karl P. Harrington, 1904

**There’s a song in the air! There’s a star in the sky!  
There’s a mother’s deep prayer and a baby’s low cry!  
And the star rains its fire while the angel choirs sing,  
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a king!**

**There’s a tumult of joy o’er the wonderful birth,  
for the Virgin’s sweet boy is the Lord of the earth.  
See, the star rains its fire while the angel choirs sing,  
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a king!**

**We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song  
that comes down through the night from the heavenly throng,  
and we welcome the glorious gospel they bring,  
and we greet in the cradle our savior and king.**

**Scripture**

**Luke 2:21; Revelation 2:17, 3:20, 22**

**Communion Meditation: What’s in a Name?**

**Pastor Day**

**Hymn – Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts – vv. 1—3**

**CH # 101**

Words: Latin (12th Century); tr. Ray Palmer, 1858, alt.

Music: Henry Baker, 1854

**Jesus, thou joy of loving hearts, thou fount of life, thou light of light,  
greater than pleasure earth imparts, thy love is true and pure delight.**

**Thy gracious word hath ever stood; thou savest those that on thee  
call; to them that seek thee, thou art good; to them that find thee, all in  
all.**

**We taste thee, O thou living bread, and long to feast upon thee still;  
we drink of thee, the fountain head, and thirst our souls from thee to  
fill.**

## **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.**

### **The Offering of Ourselves & Our Gifts to God**

As we look at the Table, we see God's love for us. May our love for God and for one another be shown in the offerings we present.

### **\*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.**

### **\*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)**

**O God, you teach us by this act of worship that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Graciously accept these offerings, and give us a right spirit in both giving and receiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Invitation to the Lord's Table**

### **Words of Institution**

### **Praise to the Lamb**

Nicolaus Decius; tr. Olaf Olsson

O Lamb of God, most holy, on Calvary an offering;  
Despised, meek and lowly, Thou in Thy death and suffering  
Our sins didst bear, our anguish: the might of death didst vanquish;  
Grant us Thy peace, O Jesus!

### **A Litany on the Holy Name of Jesus**

**adapted**

Lamb of God  
who takes away the sins of the world,  
Lamb of God

**have mercy on us.**

who takes away the sins of the world,  
Jesus, graciously hear us:  
God the Father of heaven,  
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
God the Holy Spirit,  
Holy Trinity, one God,  
Jesus, Son of the living God,  
Jesus, Splendor of the Father,  
Jesus, Brightness of eternal light,  
Jesus, King of glory, Sun of justice,  
Jesus most lovable, adorable, admirable,  
Jesus, wonderful Counselor, mighty God,  
Jesus, everlasting Father, Prince of peace,  
Jesus, Author of life, Lover of all,  
Jesus, our Refuge,  
Jesus, Good Shepherd,  
Jesus, True Light, Eternal Wisdom,  
Jesus, meek and humble of heart,  
Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life,

From all evil, temptation, and sin,  
From everlasting death,  
Through the mystery of the Incarnation,  
Through your life and teachings,  
Through your Passion, death and burial,  
Through your glorious resurrection,  
Through your ascension and Presence,  
In the day of judgment,

Through the mystery of Holy Communion,  
Through Bread and Cup, Body and Blood,

Let us pray: Lord Jesus Christ, you said, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." Mercifully hear our prayers and give us the gift of divine charity, that we may always love you with all our heart, and always praise your holy name; for you live and reign, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**grant us your peace.**

**have mercy on us.**  
**have mercy on us.**

**deliver us, O Lord.**  
**deliver us, O Lord.**

**feed us, O Lord.**  
**feed us, O Lord.**

## **Sharing the Bread & the Cup**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)**

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the sacrament of his body and blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you, and our neighbors, with gladness and singleness of heart; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*Hymn – O Thou Joyful!**

**CH # 169**

Words: Johannes D. Falk; Eng. Tr. Henry Katterjohn, 1919

Music: Tattersall's Psalmody, 1794

**O thou joyful, O thou wonderful grace revealing  
Christmastide! Jesus came to win us from all sin  
within us; glorify the holy child!**

**O thou joyful, O thou wonderful love revealing  
Christmastide! Loud hosannas singing and all praises  
bringing; may Thy love with us abide!**

**\*Charge & Benediction**

**Postlude**

**O Jesulein Suss  
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen**

**R. Te Velde  
R. Te Velde**

## 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)

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>