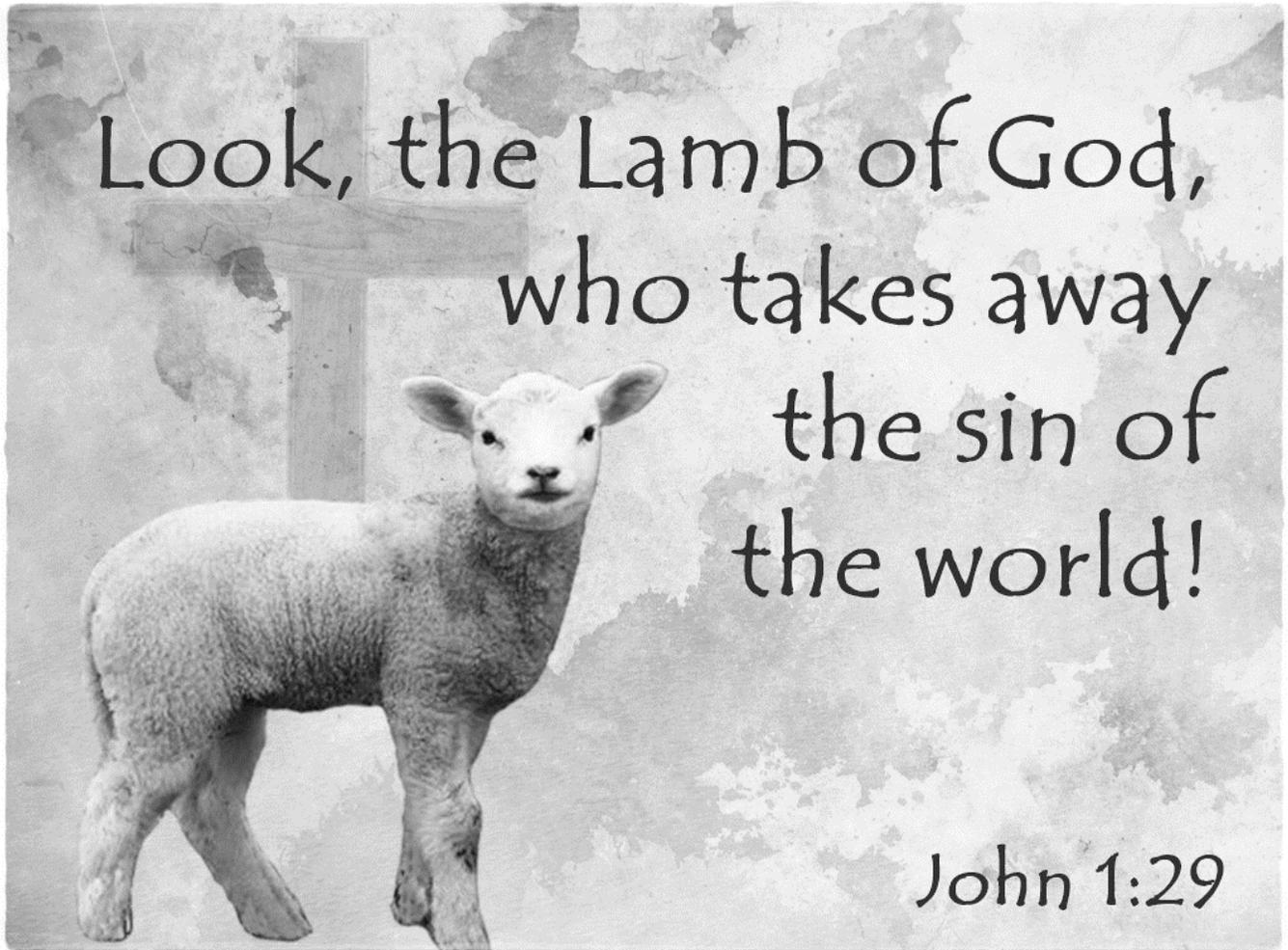


***First Congregational Church***  
United Church of Christ  
3 Gray Road, North Yarmouth, Maine 04097  
Organized in 1806



**The Second Sunday after Epiphany  
Martin Luther King, Jr., Weekend  
January 15, 2023 ~ 9:30 a.m.**

January 15, 2023 ~ 9:30 a.m.

**Welcome. We pray that you may be blessed through our worship and fellowship today.**

\* Indicates: Please stand if you are able.

Note: Hymns and songs are licensed under One License #A-73187 and CCLI #48404708

### Order of Worship

#### **We Gather to Worship God**

**Prelude**

**MitFreuden Zart**

**R. Williamson/  
M. Costello**

**All Sing: God welcomes all! Strangers and friends!  
God's love is strong! And it never ends!**

Words: John L. Bell; Music: Trad. South African, transcribed by  
John L. Bell at the Sunrise Hospice, Themba. © 2008, GIA/Iona  
Community / WGRG

#### **Welcome and Announcements**

#### **Call to Worship**

**Psalm 40:1-4**

One: I waited patiently for the LORD; God inclined to me and heard my cry.

All: **The LORD drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog,  
and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.**

One: The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

All: **Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.**

One: Happy are those who make the LORD their trust;

All: **Those who do not turn to pride, or go astray after false gods.**

**\*Hymn**

**Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above**

**CH # 6**

Words: Johann J. Schutz, 1675; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1864, alt.

Music: Bohemian Brethren's Kirchengesange, 1566; harm. Maurice F. Bell, 1906

**Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation, the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation. With healing balm my soul is filled and every faithless murmur stilled; to God all praise and glory.**

**Our God is never far away, but through all grief distressing, an ever present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing. As with a mother's tender hand, God gently leads the chosen band: to God all praise and glory.**

**Then all my glad-some way along, I sing aloud your praises, that all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises. Be joyful in the Lord, my heart, both soul and body bear your part: to God all praise and glory.**

**Let all who name Christ's holy name give God all praise and glory; let all who own God's power proclaim aloud the wondrous story! Cast each false idol from its throne, for Christ is Lord, and Christ alone: to God all praise and glory.**

**\*Invocation (in unison)**

**from Psalm 40**

**You have multiplied, O LORD our God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you. Sacrifice and offering you do not desire, but give us an open ear and put your law within our hearts, that we may delight to do your will. Open our mouths to declare the glad news of deliverance, your saving help. May our lives reveal your steadfast love and faithfulness. Amen.**

**\*Passing the Peace**

**Time with God's Children**

**Scripture Reading**

**John 1:19-34**

**Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

**– Martin Luther King, Jr.**

**One: Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world—**

All: **Have mercy upon us.**

One: Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world—

All: **Grant us thy peace.**

One: O Thou Eternal God, out of whose absolute power and infinite intelligence the whole universe has come into being, we humbly confess that we have not loved thee with our hearts, souls and minds, and we have not loved our neighbors as Christ loved us. We have all too often lived by our own selfish impulses rather than by the life of sacrificial love as revealed by Christ. We often give in order to receive. We love our friends and hate our enemies. We go the first mile but dare not travel the second. We forgive but dare not forget. And so as we look within ourselves, we are confronted with the appalling fact that the history of our lives is the history of an eternal revolt against you. But thou, O God, have mercy upon us. Forgive us for what we could have been but failed to be. Give us the intelligence to know your will. Give us the courage to do your will. Give us the devotion to love thy will. In the name and spirit of Jesus we pray.

### **Silent Prayer**

### **Word of Assurance**

Thrill and rejoice, people of God! God's grace and love meet us at every turn, no matter where our journeys lead. Praise God who gives us each the chance to reveal God's redeeming love and liberating justice.

**Choir Anthem**

**Clap Your Hands**

Patti Drennan

**The Good News: "Just Think—You Don't Need a Thing"**

**Pastor Day**

**1 Corinthians 1:1-9**

**\*Hymn**

**Amazing Grace!**

**CH # 546**

Words: John Newton, 1779; st. 4 anonymous

Music: Virginia Harmony, 1831; harm. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

**Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;**

**how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;  
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.**

## **Prayers of the People**

### **The Lord's Prayer (in unison)**

**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 Worship of God in Tithes and Offerings**

There can be no flourishing for some of us without liberation for all of us. May our giving be a revelation of God's love, made known and being made known in our midst.

**Offertory**

**Houston**

**R. Te Velde**

**\*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**

*Worship Ways*

One: Martin Luther King, Jr., wrote: "All life is interrelated. . . . We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality. . . . We are tied in a single garment of destiny."

All: **God, use our gifts to empower us to lean into this reality and this calling, more and more fully, that we may be the true Beloved Community you intend. Amen.**

**\*Hymn – Lift Every Voice and Sing – vv. 1 & 3**

**CH # 631**

Words: James Weldon Johnson, 1921

Music: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921

**Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,  
ring with the harmonies of liberty;  
let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,  
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
let us march on till victory is won.**

**God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,  
keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the place, our God, where we met thee;  
lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;  
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,  
true to our God, true to our native land.**

**\*Charge & Benediction**

inspired by **Isaiah 49**

Listen to me, people of the jagged coast: God has chosen you.  
The Holy One has given you to be a light for all people, that God's  
healing and wholeness may extend to the ends of the earth.  
The Lord is faithful; God is your strength and blessing. Amen.

**Postlude**

**Warrenton**

**R. Powell**

**We Go Forth to Serve God and Our Neighbors**

## 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

Church Phone: 829-3644  
Church e-mail: [nyarmouthcucc@gmail.com](mailto:nyarmouthcucc@gmail.com)

Pastor Day's phone: 207 712-9896  
Pastor Day's email: [revpaulday@gmail.com](mailto:revpaulday@gmail.com)

Church Website: <http://nyccucc.com>  
Maine Conference Website: [www.maineucc.org](http://www.maineucc.org)  
YouTube: [youtube.com/c/nyccucc](http://youtube.com/c/nyccucc)

Note: 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!

Offerings can also be made online through Tithely at  
<https://tithe.ly/give?c=1301940>