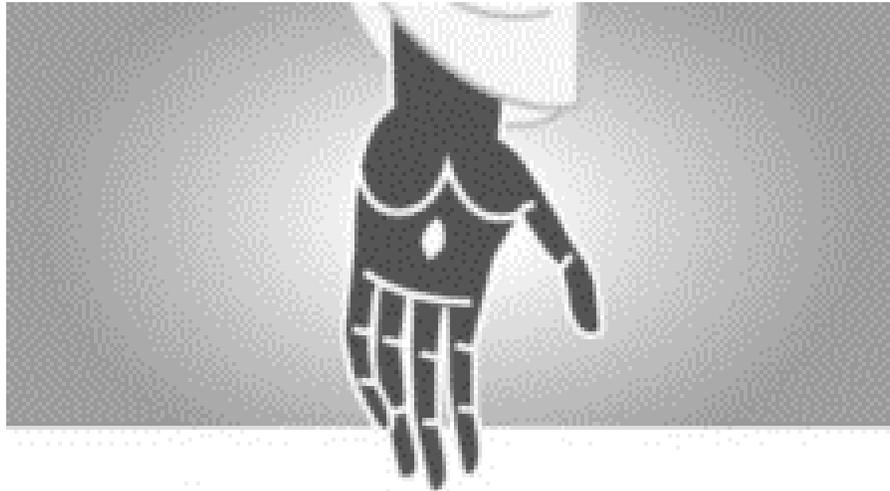
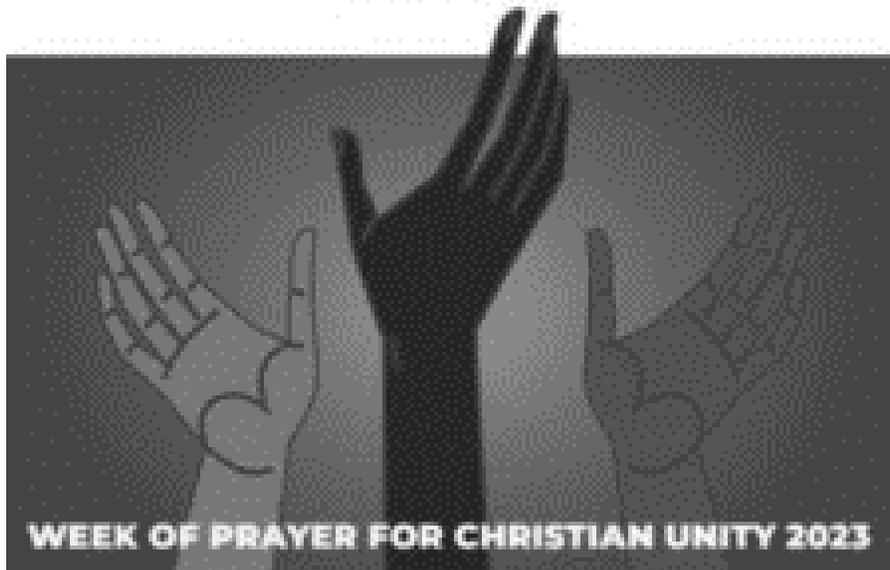


***First Congregational Church***  
United Church of Christ  
3 Gray Road, North Yarmouth, Maine 04097  
Organized in 1806



**DO GOOD; SEEK JUSTICE.**  
(Isaiah 1:17)



**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2023**

**The Third Sunday after Epiphany**  
**January 22, 2023 ~ 9:30 a.m.**



**\*Hymn**

***I Love Your Church, O God***

**CH # 274**

Words: Timothy Dwight, 1801, alt. Music: Aaron Williams, 1770

**I love your church, O God, on earth your blest abode,  
the people our redeemer saved with his own precious blood.**

**I love your church, O God, whose walls before you stand,  
dear as the apple of your eye, and graven on your hand.**

**In love my tears shall fall, in love my prayers ascend,  
to serve your church, my toils be given, till toils and cares shall end.**

**Beyond my highest joys, I prize your people's ways,  
the sweet communion, solemn vows, the hymns of love and praise.**

**Sure as your truth shall last, to Zion shall be given  
the brightest glories earth can yield, and brighter bliss of heaven.**

**\*Invocation (in unison)**

*Worship Ways*

**Great God, we acknowledge your presence among us and the ways you connect us as a community. Make us receptive to your voice and instruments of your love in the world. Thrill us with your majesty and inspire us with your humility. We rejoice in this gathering as we bless your Holy Name in the assembly, gathered across time and space as your people. We seek you. We're grateful to find you. Amen.**

**\*Passing the Peace**

**Time with God's Children**

**Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

**from Isaiah 1:10-17**

(adapted from materials prepared by the Commission  
on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches)

One: We are invited to confess our sins with the words of the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah addressed God's people, comparing them to Sodom and Gomorrah:

"When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more; bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me."

All: **Forgive us, Lord, when we come to worship without walking humbly before you.**

One: "New moon and Sabbath and calling of convocation – I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity. Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me, I am weary of bearing them."

All: **We ask forgiveness for the complicity of your people in the evils of injustice felt around the world.**

One: "When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood."

All: **We ask forgiveness for our sins of omission and silence that fail to honor and support the diversity and harmony of all creation.**

One: "Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow."

All: **As we have been washed clean in the living waters of baptism, forgive us anew and reconcile us to one another and to creation.**

One: "Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool."

All: **God, in your mercy, free us from our sins so that we can do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with you.**

## **Silent Prayer**

## **Word of Assurance**

One: God hears our prayers, has mercy on us and forgives our sins.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**Choir Anthem**

**Fill-a-Me-Up**

**Pepper Choplin**

**Scripture Reading**

**Matthew 4:12-23**

**The Good News**

***Cultivating a Life in Common*  
1 Corinthians 1:10-18**

**Pastor Day**

**\*Hymn**

***Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant* – vv. 1—4**

**CH # 490**

Words: Richard Gillard, 1977, alt.

Music: Richard Gillard, 1977; arr. A Eugene Ellsworth, 1994

**Sister, let me be your servant, brother, let me walk with you;  
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow trav'lers on the road.  
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together of great love and agony.**

**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**

When Jesus calls us to be his disciples, he promises to transform the  
gifts we bring to be used for the glory and kingdom of God. Let us offer  
our resources in following Jesus.

**Offertory**

**Ave Maria**

**G. Faure**

**\*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)**

*Worship Ways*

**Great God, receive our gifts of ourselves and our resources for the benefit and building of your kingdom. Amen.**

**\*Hymn**

***In Christ There Is No East or West***

**CH # 687**

Words: John Oxenham, 1908, alt. Music: Alexander R. Reinagle c. 1830

**In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,  
but one community of love through-out the whole wide earth.**

**In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;  
his service is the golden cord close-binding human kind.**

**Join hands, disciples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be;  
all children of the living God are surely kin to me.**

**In Christ now meet both east and west in him meet south and north;  
all loving hearts are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.**

**\*Charge & Benediction**

The message of the Cross – the way of sacrificial love – seems weak and foolish from a worldly point of view; but it is the wisdom and power of God to bring healing and wholeness to us and to the whole world. Go forth in the wisdom and power of God, in the love of Christ, and in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Postlude**

**St. Peter**

**J. Greene**

**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>