

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



The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 29, 2023 ~ 9:30 a.m.

One: Through faithfulness, we build God's realm of care for those who are hurting, of inclusion for our marginalized siblings, and of justice for all disenfranchised people.

Many: **Through our ways of living, as we work towards equity, justice, and love, all of us will find our peace in God's presence.**

***Hymn Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult – vv. 1—4 CH # 337**

Words: Cecil F. Alexander, 1852; Music: William H. Jude, 1874

**Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild restless sea,
day by day his sweet voice soundeth, saying, "Christian, follow me."**

**Long ago apostles heard it by the Galilean lake,
turned from home, and toil and kindred, leaving all for his dear sake.**

**Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more."**

**In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toll and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than
these."**

***Invocation (in unison)**

**Jesus calls us! By thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call, give
our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of all.
Amen.**

***Passing the Peace**

Time with God's Children

The Beatitudes for Caregivers

adapted from *Worship Ways*

One: Blessed are you on the frontlines, who have sustained risk, toil, and exhaustion. You who have ridden every wave of this crisis and know its depths in ways others never will.

All: **Blessed are you, for the kingdom of God is yours.**

One: Blessings be upon your trauma, your grief, shock, and disappointment.
Yours is the experience of healers who have gone before you.

All: **Blessed are you, for you will be comforted.**

One: Blessed are you donned in PPE, who have protected, sweated, and explained it a thousand times over. You who have stayed firm for the sake of life.

All: **Blessed are you, for you will inherit God's promised place.**

One: Blessed are the understaffed, who have shown up, reached out, and adjusted beyond measure. You who make a way out of no way.

All: **Blessed are you, for you will be filled.**

One: Blessed are the inspired, who found new ways to care, collaborate, and solve seemingly impossible problems. You whose service is an expression of the Creator.

All: **Blessed are you, for you will see God.**

One: Blessed are you who de-escalate, who have stepped in, listened, and navigated through winds of tension. You who know the eye of the hurricane.

All: **Blessed are you, for you will be called children of God.**

One: Blessed are you on a mission, who seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God, whose care is an expression of your faith.

All: **Blessed are you, for the kingdom of God is yours.**

One: Holy is the work, yes, but holy are you, too; for God no longer calls us servants, but friends.

All: **For, we are blessed and beloved as we work for the kingdom of God together.**

Choir Anthem For the Beauty of the Earth John Rutter

The Good News – The Company of the Weak and Foolish Pastor Day
1 Corinthians 1:18-31

***Hymn O Christ, the Healer – vv. 1, 2 & 3 CH # 503**

Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1967; Music: Anonymous; harm. Edward Miller, 1790

O Christ, the healer, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends. How can we fail to be restored when reached by love that never ends?

From every ailment flesh endures our bodies clamor to be freed; yet in our hearts we would confess that wholeness is our deepest need.

How strong, O Christ, are our desires, how weak our knowledge of ourselves! Release in us those healing truths unconscious pride resists or shelves.

+ A Service of Prayer and Healing +

Call to Confession

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who comforts us in all our afflictions and brings healing and hope.

To bear one another's burdens in prayer is a holy privilege. It also demands a willingness to be a channel for God's power. Therefore, in silence, let us offer our confessions to God that we may be cleansed of anything that might hinder our efforts as intercessors. In confessing, let us name those sins which separate and distort: sins of pride, self-love, and resentment; sins of hatred, bitterness, and jealousy. Let us also name our connection with humanity's sins: sins of poverty, war, injustice, neglect, and discrimination.

Silent Prayer

Corporate Confession

Let us confess our sins together:

On God, we confess our sins and acknowledge our weakness, looking to you for cleansing and strength. We thank you for the promise of pardon to everyone who repents. Claiming your grace, we praise you for forgiveness, and for the comfort and power of the Holy Spirit; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Brothers and sisters, I announce with joy that we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Invitation to Healing and Prayer

“Is any one of you sick? Call the elders of the church to pray over you and anoint you with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make you whole; the Lord will raise you up. Therefore, pray for each other that you may be healed.” James 5:14-16

Those who wish to receive anointing, or the laying on of hands, for healing may come forward. You may come for yourself or you may come as a channel of God’s healing power for someone else.

Others may wish to come forward and light a candle as a sign of a specific prayer request. Those at home may wish to light a candle where you are. During this time, we invite everyone to be in prayer:

(In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: As we anoint with oil or extend a hand of healing, Loving God, reveal your presence among us. May your healing grace, mercy, and power be in us and in all for whom we pray, in body, mind, and spirit, to bring wholeness and peace, according to your will. Amen.)

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray:

We give thanks and praise to you, O God! You have given us new life in Jesus Christ, bringing forgiveness, healing, and peace. Through your Holy Spirit you continue to bring healing and wholeness to us today. Keep us mindful of your love and mercy that we may be faithful throughout our days.

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 Worship of God in Tithes and Offerings

A generous life counters societal norms that depend on scarcity. Our Loving God creates in abundance so that all may live a full and flourishing life. When we give from our abundance, we proclaim our trust in God's provision and our love of neighbor.

Offertory

Rockingham Old

E. Miller

***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

Generous God, we share our humble offering in hope and trust that, through these gifts, your kingdom comes and your will is done. Amen.

***Hymn**

There Is a Balm in Gilead

CH # 501

Words and Music: African-American spiritual; Music; arr. by Harold Moyer

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole, there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain, but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole, there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul, you can tell the love of Jesus, and say, "He died for all!"

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole, there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend; and if you lack for knowledge He'll never refuse to lend.

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole, there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

***Charge & Benediction**

As you go in the world, hold the blessings of peace. Be the good news to a world shrouded in brokenness, pain, and despair. Show the world the kingdom that lives in you. Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. Amen.

Postlude

Balm in Gilead

F. Ashdown

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
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Maine Conference Website: www.maineucc.org
YouTube: [youtube.com/c/nyccucc](https://www.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 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>