

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



**The First Sunday after Epiphany
The Baptism of the Lord
January 8, 2023 ~ 9:30 a.m.**

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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

Fugue & Ciaccona

J Pachelbel

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

Isaiah 60:1-3, 6b

One: Arise, shine; for your light has come,

All: **And the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.**

One: For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;

All: **But the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.**

One: Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

All: **They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.**

***Hymn – We Three Kings**

CH # 172

Note: Refrain is after vv. 1 & 5 only

Words and Music: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

**We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.**

***O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
west-ward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.***

**Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.**

**Frank incense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high.**

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.**

**Glorious now behold him arise; Christ and God and sacrifice;
Alleluia, alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.**

***O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
west-ward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.***

Invocation (in unison)

**Lord God, you keep call forth light in darkness. It was the first word
you spoke in creation. When Christ came, you called us out of
darkness into his marvelous light. Set us as a lamp in a dark place,
as witnesses to the God who forgives sin and raises the dead to new
life. Amen.**

Passing the Peace

Scripture Reading

Matthew 3:11-17

Time with God's Children

Confession

**John preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sin and
cleansing of our souls. Let us recognize our need for forgiveness and
renewal.**

Silent Prayer

Word of Assurance

Jesus did not need to repent but accepted baptism as a way to identify with us. God offers us forgiveness and renewal in his name. For, in Christ we are baptized with water and the Holy Spirit. Let us, therefore, remember our baptism and reaffirm our faith and covenant in Christ.

Reaffirmation of Faith

adapted from *Worship Ways*

One: Do you believe in the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

All: **We believe in God—Creator, Christ, and Holy Comforter.**

One: Do you reject the powers of oppression in this world, the systems that marginalize and degrade human beings and communities created by God, and the norms of the world at odds with the way of the kingdom?

All: **We do, with the help of God.**

One: Do you embrace grace as God's gift, to be freely given and freely received?

All: **We do, with the help of God.**

One: Do you recommit to the covenantal and baptized life, the cost and joy of discipleship, and the community of belonging as a member of the Body of Christ?

All: **We do, with the help of God.**

Renewal of Baptism

One: God declares, "You are my beloved!" Let us remember our baptism and recognize the movement of God's Holy Spirit within us and among us. Let us pray:

All: **Lord God, we give thanks for gathering us into a beloved community of belonging. We accept the invitation to public and faithful witness to the ministry of Jesus Christ in the world and to be instruments to that work. May we live the baptized life in the Spirit as caring companions of one another, with accountability, support, and grace. Shelter us in your love, nourish us in your truth, and uphold us in your word. Amen.**

**Sermon: Out-Heroding King Herod
Matthew 2:1-23**

Pastor Day

***Hymn – As with Gladness**

CH # 173

Words: William C. Dix, 1861, alt

Music: Conrad Kocher, 1838; arr. William Henry Monk, 1861

**As with gladness sages bold did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
so, true Morning Star, may we ever more your splendor see.**

**As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,
there to bend the knee before One whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet ever seek your mercy seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare at the manger plain and bare,
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you from whom they
spring.**

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

Generosity serves as essential element of the baptized life. We bring forth
our resources to meet the needs of our community and the world. Let our
giving be a public demonstration of our belonging to the kingdom of God.

Offertory

Dix

Setting by D. Rottermund

***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)**

Giver of all good gifts, we thank you for providing in abundance and allowing us to participate with you in building your kingdom of grace. We dedicate our offerings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Hymn – We Call Ourselves Disciples – vv. 1, 3 & 5**

CH # 357

Words; Jim Miller, 1984 Music: Henry T. Smart, 1836

We call ourselves disciples, as pilgrims on the way.
We seek the truth in wisdom, and beauty in each day.
As women, men, and children, we serve Christ's path to clear.
In joyful expectation we see God's reign draw near.

We're baptized in the Spirit, in waters God provides.
In Christ we rise to newness, for in him we have died.
Now dead to powers of evil, and free from hopeless fears,
we live with faith and purpose, creative through the years.

So now the vision brightens, the light of Christ burns still
in hearts of all disciples to be the church God wills.
From quiet meditation, and joyous hymns of praise,
we go to do God's mission! Christ, lead us all our days!

***Charge & Benediction**

Go in hope, that the world will hear God's voice and know God's love.
Go in joy, for the transforming work of the Spirit has made you new.
Go in peace, and share the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Postlude

The Day of Resurrection

D. Edwards

Staff

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Paul A. Day
Administrative Assistant: Lyn Glassock
Organist: Peter Dickson*
Organist: Jesse Myers-Wakeman
Choir Director: David Myers-Wakeman
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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>