

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



The Transfiguration of the Lord
Black History Month
February 19, 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

No prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. **2 Peter 1:20-21**

We Gather to Worship God

Prelude

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

inspired by **Psalm 99**

Pastor: Let us praise the great and awesome name of the Holy One.

People: **The Holy One is high on the mountain and exalted among the people.**

Pastor: Let us praise the great and awesome name of the Mighty One.

People: **The Mighty God is sovereign, loves justice, and establishes equity.**

Pastor: Let us praise the great and awesome name of the Everlasting God.

People: **The Everlasting God hears our cries and answers our call. Praise our God!**

***Hymn**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

CH # 16

Words: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.

Music: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813

**Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.**

**Here I raise to thee an altar; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.**

**O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, how I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.**

***Invocation (in unison)**

Worship Ways

**Radiant God, we come to you on the mountaintop to experience
your glory. You come to us in the valleys. We meet you in gladness
in a place where heaven and earth collide. May our worship
encourage us on the journey and empower us to reflect your
kingdom in the world. Transform us, and keep us near to you.
Amen.**

***Passing the Peace**

Time with God's Children

Choir Anthem

Order My Steps

Glenn Burleigh; arr. Jack Schrader

Scripture Readings

Old Testament

The Gospel

Exodus 24:12-18

Matthew 16:28; 17:1-9

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Worship Ways

Righteous God, we find ourselves wanting to retreat from the harsh realities of life. We can find ourselves lifted to high places and forget those we have left behind. Our concern for our neighbor too often dissipates at the point of our discomfort. Forgive us for wanting to dwell in your presence without being transformed with new energy for the work of your ministry. Amen.

Words of Grace

Jesus gifts us disciples with an occasional mountaintop experience. When we too often choose to linger there rather than enter into hard or even mundane places, God does not condemn us. With grace and compassion, Jesus encourages us in the direction we should go.

*Hymn

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

CH # 628

Words and Music: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When the darkness appears and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

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

Jesus comes to us as a gift of presence, compassion, and companionship. His entire life is a demonstration of committed generosity and stewardship. We, too, are called to present our lives as a gift to the God who has created us and the world that needs what we have to offer in time, talent, and treasure. Let us reveal the glory of God by the giving of our good gifts.

Offertory

***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)**

Generous God, may our gifts bring you glory and honor and meet the needs of your people; in the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn**

'Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here

Tune: SWABIA

Words: J. A. Robinson; Music: Johann M. Spiess

- 1. 'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Your glory fills the night; Your face and garments, like the sun, Shine with unborrowed light.**
- 2. 'Tis good, Lord, to be here, Your beauty to behold, Where Moses and Elijah stand, Your messengers of old.**
- 3. Fulfiller of the past! Promise of things to be! We hail your body glorified, And our redemption see.**

4. Before we taste of death, We see your kingdom come; We long to hold the vision bright, And make this hill our home.

5. 'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not remain; But since you bid us leave the mount, Come with us to the plain.

***Charge & Benediction**

May the shining radiance of God warm you; may the dazzling splendor of God surprise you; and the glory of God transform you. May you come up to the mountaintop; may you remember the experience with wonder and awe; and may you come down renewed and empowered for the glory of God and the hope of the world. Amen.

Postlude

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

Pastor Day's phone: 207 712-9896
Pastor Day's email: revpaulday@gmail.com

Church Website: <http://nyccucc.com>
Maine Conference Website: www.maineucc.org
YouTube: 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> or text "Give" to 833-751-0314