

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



The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Black History Month
February 5, 2023 ~ 9:30 a.m.

**The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 5, 2023 ~ 9:30 a.m.**

Welcome. May you 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

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

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

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

from **Psalm 112**

Pastor: Praise the LORD! Holy and awe-inspiring is our God.

People: **Happy are those who delight in God's ways.**

Pastor: Those who follow God's ways are blessed with true riches.

People: **They offer the light of hope in a world of darkness.**

Pastor: It is well with those who are gracious, merciful, and righteous.

People: **With those who are generous to the poor and pursue justice.**

Pastor: Those who follow God's ways will never be shaken by fear.

People: **Their hearts are firm, secure in the LORD.**

***Hymn**

Blessed Assurance

CH # 543

Words: Fanny J. Crosby; Music: Phoebe P. Knapp

- 1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long. This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

- 2. Perfect communion, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight. Angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.**

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long. This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

- 3. Perfect submission, all is at rest. I in my Savior am happy and blest, watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.**

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long. This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

Holy One, we gather as a community to worship you in spirit and in truth. May we resist empty actions; may our rituals and routines hold meaning and connect us to you. We seek an encounter with you to receive your revelation and be transformed, healed, and renewed. Amen.

Passing the Peace

Choir Anthem

To the Table

Jesse Meyers-Wakeman

Scripture

Matthew 5:13-20

Time with God's Children

Prayer for Illumination

inspired by **1 Corinthians 2:6-18**

It is written, "No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived what God has prepared for those who love him." May your Holy Spirit reveal to us the power and depth of your heart, and teach us your hidden wisdom. "For who has known the mind of the Lord? But we have the mind of Christ." In his name we pray. Amen.

The Good News

Salt & Light & More

Pastor Day

Matthew 5:13-20; Isaiah 58:6-12

God's Word convicts us and calls us to repentance for we know our righteousness falls short. Yet God's Word also inspires and empowers us according to the grace God gives us.

Prayers of the People

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.

Offering our Gifts and Ourselves

The generous life imagines the possibilities of the kingdom of God realized through the sharing of our gifts. Generosity glorifies God and connects us as neighbors. When we give of our time, talent, and treasure, we declare our trust in the abundance of God's continuing creative acts and participate in the realization of the kingdom on earth.

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)**

God of Heaven and Earth, receive our gifts as a deposit of trust in your faithfulness and a seed of hope for the flourishing of your kingdom. Amen.

***Hymn We Place upon Your Table, Lord CH # 417**

Words: M. F. C. Wilson, alt.; Music: WINCHESTER NEW

- 1. We place upon your table, Lord, the food of life, the bread and wine, as symbols of our daily work, according to your grand design.**
- 2. Within these simple things there lie the height and depth of human life: our pain and tears, our thoughts and toils, our hopes and fears, our joy and strife.**
- 3. Accept them, Lord; they come from you; we take them humbly from your hand. These gifts of yours for higher use we offer up as you command.**

+ Celebration of Holy Communion +

We practice an Open Communion. You do not need to be a member of this church to participate. All who trust in God and seek to follow Jesus Christ are welcome at the Table. Please hold the Bread and Cup until everyone has been served; we eat and drink at the same time as a sign of our unity in the Body of Christ.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

United Church of Christ Statement of Faith

CH # 361

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world, to resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

Words of Institution & Prayer of Consecration

*** * * Sharing the Bread & the Cup * * ***

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

God our help, we thank you for this supper shared in the Spirit with your Son Jesus, who makes us new and strong, who brings us eternal life. We praise you for giving us all good gifts in him, and pledge ourselves to serve you, even as in Christ you have served us. Amen.

***Hymn – This Little Light of Mine**

African-American Spiritual

- 1. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine.**
- 2. Everywhere I go today, I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go today, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine.**
- 3. The darkness cannot put it out, I'm gonna let it shine.
The darkness cannot put it out, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine.**

**4. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine.**

***Charge & Benediction**

Go in peace. You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world. Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so continue to live in him. And may the blessing of God Almighty – Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit – be among us and remain with us always. 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

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

This service was recorded and streamed on YouTube.

If you are not receiving church emails and would like to, please send an email to nyarmouthccucc@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