

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



**The Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
**March 26, 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.

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Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" **John 11:25-26**

**We Gather to Worship God**

**Prelude**

**Naar Mit Öie  
Fugue on Magnificat**

**E. Childs  
J.S. Bach**

**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** from **Romans 8:6-8** (*The Message*)

Pastor: Obsession with self is a dead end; attention to God leads us into a spacious, free life.

People: **Focusing on the self is the opposite of focusing on God.**

Pastor: Anyone completely absorbed in self ignores God, ends up thinking more about self than God.

People: **Those who trust God's action in them find that God's Spirit is in them—living and breathing God!**

**\*Hymn**

***Breathe on Me, Breath of God***

**CH # 254**

Words: Edwin Hatch, 1878, alt. Music: Robert Jackson, 1888, Public Domain

**Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,  
until with thee I will one will to do and to endure.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine,  
until this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,  
but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.**

**\*Invocation (in unison)**

from ***The Book of Common Prayer***

**Almighty God, you alone can bring into order our unruly wills and affections: Grant us grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**\*Passing the Peace**

**Time with God's Children**

from **Ezekiel 37**

**Responsive Reading**

**Psalm 130**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

**Lord, hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

**If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?**

But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

**I wait for you, O LORD, my soul waits, and in your word I hope;**

My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning,

**More than those who watch for the morning.**

**+ Silent Prayer +**

Hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,  
and great power to redeem. God redeems us from all our iniquities.

**Choir Anthem**

***Abba***

Craig Courtney

**The Good News**

***Do You Believe This?*  
John 11:1—12:11**

Pastor Paul Day

**\*Hymn**

***Healer of Our Ev'ry Ill***

**CH # 506**

**Words and Music: Marty Haugen, 1987**

**Refrain:**

**Healer of our ev'ry ill, light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.**

**You who know our fears and sadness, grace us with your peace and  
gladness, Spirit of all comfort; fill our hearts.**

**Healer of our ev'ry ill, light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.**

**In the pain and joy beholding, how your grace is still unfolding,  
give us all your vision; God of love.**

**Healer of our ev'ry ill, light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.**

**Give us strength to love each other, ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother,  
Spirit of all kindness: be our guide.**

**Healer of our ev'ry ill, light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.**

**You who know each thought and feeling, teach us all your way of  
healing, Spirit of compassion: fill each heart.**

**Healer of our ev'ry ill, light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.**

## **Prayers of the People**

You may come forward to light a candle; please speak into the microphone.

### **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 Offering of Our Gifts and Ourselves to God**

Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them with her hair. . . . But Judas Iscariot, who was about to betray him, said, "Why was this perfume not sold . . . and the money given to the poor?" . . . Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

from **John 12:3-5, 7-8**

**Offertory**

**Trentham**

**arr. D Lasky**

**\*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, we give thankfully and joyfully. May our offerings bring honor to you and blessings to those who are in need; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*Hymn**

***O Breath of Life***

**CH # 250**

Words: Bessie Porter Head, 1920; Music: Clement C. Scholefield, 1874, PD

**O Breath of Life, come sweeping through us,  
revive your church with life and power.**

**O Breath of Life, Come, cleanse, renew us,  
and fit your church to meet this hour.**

**O Wind of God, come, bend us, break us,  
Till humbly we confess our need.**

**Then in your tenderness remake us;  
revive, restore, for this we plead.**

**O Breath of Love, come, breathe within us,  
renewing thought and will and heart.**

**Come, love of Christ, afresh to win us;  
revive your church in every part.**

**\*Benediction**

from **Ezekiel 37**

Ezekiel had a vision of a valley of dry bones. God said to him, "These bones represent my people who say, 'Our bones are dried up; our hope is lost.' Therefore say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act."

**Postlude**

**Fantasia on Von Got will ich nicht lassen**

**J.S. Bach**

**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 is 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> or text "Give" to 833-751-0314