

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



The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 19, 2023 ~ 9:30 a.m.

Pastor: Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light —

People: **The fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.**

Pastor: Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.

People: **The Lord does not see as we see; we look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.**

***Hymn**

Be Thou My Vision

CH # 595

Words: Irish song(8th c.); tr. Mary E. Bryne, 1905; V. by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912. Alt.

Music: Traditional Irish melody; harm. Carlton R. Young, 1963

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art thou my best thought by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou my redeemer, my love thou hast won, thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I need not, nor vain, empty praise, thou mine inheritance, now and always: thou and thou only, first in my heart, Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

***Invocation (in unison)**

Worship Ways

God of surprises, we know that we do not often perceive the world as you do. We look to flashy fame, grand gestures, optimal achievements, and unreachable standards. Yet, in spite of our misdirected vision, you give us glimpses of your grandeur and grace. Surprise us yet again this day, O God, that out of our complacency, which allows us to drift towards the same old ways, we may be transformed by your grace.

+ Silent Prayer +

Amen. . . . In the name of the One whose love and peace make all things new, God blesses us and sends us forth to bless others.

***Passing the Peace**

Time with God's Children

Responsive Reading

Psalm 23 (*The Message*)

GOD, my shepherd! I don't need a thing.
You have bedded me down in lush meadows,
you find me quiet pools to drink from.

**True to your word, you let me catch my breath
and send me in the right direction.**

Even when the way goes through Death Valley,
I'm not afraid when you walk at my side.

Your trusty shepherd's crook makes me feel secure.

You serve me a six-course dinner right in front of my enemies.

You revive my drooping head; my cup brims with blessing.

Your beauty and love chase after me every day of my life.

I'm back home in the house of GOD for the rest of my life.

Choir Anthem

Total Praise - Richard Smallwood, arr. Doreen Rao

The Good News

Exposed !!!
John 9:1-41

Pastor Paul Day

***Hymn**

Amazing Grace!

CH # 546

Words: John Newton, 1779; st. 4 anonymous

Music: *Virginia Harmony*, 1831; harm. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

**Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.**

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;

'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

**When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.**

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 Offering of Our Gifts and Ourselves to God

Let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all.

Galatians 6: 9–10 (*The Message*)

Offertory

Aria

R. Lloyd

***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 offer these gifts in the spirit of gratitude and with an open heart. These offerings are one way of showing our commitment to sharing with those who are in need, neighbors near and far, whom we are unlikely to meet. Let us not grow weary in giving our gifts to others. Bless them, just as you have us, with an extra measure of your grace; in Christ's name. Amen.

***Hymn**

Blessed Assurance

CH # 543

Words: Fanny J. Crosby, 1873; Music: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a fore-taste 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 in my song, praising my Savior all the
day long.***

**Perfect submission, 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 in my song, praising my Savior all the
day long.***

**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 in my song, praising my Savior all the
day long.***

***Benediction**

Postlude

Sortie

G. Pierné

We Go Forth to Serve God and Our Neighbors

***The flowers in the sanctuary this morning
are in remembrance of **Carol Black****

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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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 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 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

Easter Flower Order Form
Easter – April 9, 2023

Deadline to order is Sunday, April 2, 2023

I would like to order # _____ 3.5” Pansy @ \$2.51 each

I would like to order # _____ 4.5” Primrose @ \$6.29 each

I would like to order # _____ 4” Mini Daffodil @ \$6.29 each

I would like to order # _____ 4.5” Gerber Daisy @ \$6.29 each

I would like to order # _____ 6” Daffodil @ \$14.39 each

I would like to order # _____ 6” Easter Lily @ \$17.99 each

I would like to order # _____ 6” Hyacinth @ \$14.39 each

I would like to order # _____ 6” Tulip (Assorted) @ \$14.39 each

I Would like to order # _____ 6” Regal Geranium @ \$17.99

I would like to order # _____ 12” Pansy Color Bowl @ 22.49

All plant pots will be wrapped in dark green foil at no charge.

Total amount: _____ (Check payable to NYCC)

Dedications:

Your Name: _____

In celebration of: _____

In memory of: _____

Please return this form and payment to the church office.