

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



**The Second Sunday in Lent
U.C.C. Women's Week
March 5, 2023 ~ 9:30 a.m.**

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March 5, 2023 ~ 9:30 a.m.**

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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We Gather to Worship God

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16 (KJV)

Prelude Version of “Holy Manna” R. Lau/F. Ashdown

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 **Genesis 12:1-3**

Pastor: The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.”

People: **God calls us from familiar things and out of our comfort zones.**

Pastor: “I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.”

People: **God promises to bless us that we may be a blessing to others.**

Pastor: “I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

People: **May God be blessed by our worship and our neighbors be blessed by our lives.**

***Hymn – *Christians, We Have Met to Worship* – vv. 1 & 3** **CH # 277**

Words: Attr. George Atkins (19th C.); alt.

Music: William Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825

**1. Christians, we have met to worship and adore the living God;
will you pray with all your power, while we try to preach the
Word? All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down;
Christians, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.**

**3. Let us love our God supremely, let us love each other, too;
let us pray for all earth's people till our God makes all things
new. Christ will call us home to heaven, at the table we'll sit
down; Christ will welcome us and serve us living manna all
around.**

***Invocation (in unison)**

from *Worship Ways*

**Though we may not know where we are going, God, your way is
revealed moment by moment, step by step, and breath by breath.
As you call us to go into an uncertain and unknown future, O God,
grant us the courage needed to let go of all that we have known so
that we can take hold of the new life you are bringing about even
now. Draw us towards your loving embrace even as we face what
seems like impossibility. In the name of the One who so loves the
world we pray. Amen.**

***Passing the Peace**

Time with God's Children

Choir Anthem

Bread of the World

Dennis Eliot

Scripture Reading

John 3:1-17

The Good News: *The Steeple Points to God*

Pastor Paul Day

Litany of Confession

Pastor: Friends, we are called to go from our places of comfort, from our certainties and complacency, from our old life and into the new.

People: **O God, we all too often wish to go our own way, maintain control, and rely on our own strength rather than trust that you will provide. Forgive us in our unwillingness to live by faith, keeping in step with the Spirit, and not trusting you to provide all that we need for the journey.**

+ Silent Prayer +

Pastor: Friends, the call of God does not leave us isolated and condemned on a road of uncertainty and fear, marred by the potholes of our past. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

People: **God calls us not just call us from, but toward a love so compelling that we may trust our whole selves into the embrace of the Creator, into the abiding love of Christ, and into the sacred dance of the Holy Spirit.**

Hymn – *He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought!

CH # 545

Words: Joseph H. Gilmore, 1862; Music: William B. Bradbury, 1864

1. **He leadeth me: O blessed Thought! O words with heavenly comfort fraught! What-e'er I do, Wher-e'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.**

*He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me:
His faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.*

2. **Lord, I would place my hand in thine, nor ever murmur nor re-pine; by waters still, o'er troubled sea, still 'tis thy hand that leadeth me.**

*He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me:
His faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.*

3. **And when my task on earth is done, when, by thy grace, the victory's won, e'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since God thro' Jordan leadeth me.**

*He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me:
His faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.*

Call to Prayer

Psalm 121:1-7, altered

Pastor: I lift up my eyes to the hills — from where will our help come?

People: **Our help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: The LORD is your keeper; God will not let your foot be moved.

People: **The One who keeps us will neither slumber nor sleep.**

Pastor: The LORD will keep you from all evil; God will keep your life.

People: **The sun shall not strike us by day, nor the moon by night.**

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

The Table is set with the tokens of God's love for us. May the offering plates be filled with the tokens of our love for God.

Offertory

Contemplation

A. Fletcher

***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, we bring to you the ordinary things of life—food and drink and money—and in bringing them we bring ourselves. Take this food and drink and feed us with your love. Take us and our money to do your work in the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ The Sacrament of Holy Communion +

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Closing Prayer

Loving God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of the Body of Christ, and have fed our spirits through the bread and the cup. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Hymn – *Now Let Us from This Table Rise* Tune: TALLIS CANON**
Words: Fred Kaan; Music: Thomas Tallis

- 1. Now, let us from this table rise, renewed in body, mind and soul; with Christ we die and live again, his selfless love has made us whole.**
- 2. With minds alert, upheld by grace, to spread the word in speech and deed, we follow in the steps of Christ, at one with all in hope and need.**
- 3. To fill each human house with love, it is the sacrament of care; the work that Christ began to do we humbly pledge ourselves to share.**
- 4. Then give us grace, companion God, to choose again the pilgrim way; and help us to accept with joy the challenge of tomorrow's day.**

***Charge & Benediction**

Psalm 121:8

The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore. Amen.

Postlude

Tallis' Canon

Setting by J. Eifert

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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Pastor Day's phone: 207 712-9896
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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