

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



**The Third Sunday of Easter**  
**Break the Silence Sunday**  
**April 23, 2023 ~ 9:30 a.m.**

**The Third Sunday of Easter**  
**April 23, 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.

**We Gather to Worship God**

***Tikkun Olam*** is a Jewish understanding of our responsibility to work for the healing of the world. “Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world’s grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.”  
***The Talmud***

**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**

from **Psalm 116:1-6, 12** (*The Message*)

Pastor: Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Pastor: I love the LORD because he listened to me, listened as I begged for mercy.

People: **God listened intently as I laid out my case before him.**

Pastor: Death stared me in the face, hell was hard on my heels. Up against it, I didn’t know which way to turn; then I called out to GOD for help:

People: **“Please, GOD!” I cried out. “Save my life!”**

Pastor: The LORD is gracious—it is God who makes things right, our most compassionate God; the LORD takes the side of the helpless.

People: **When I was at the end of my rope, God saved me.**

Pastor: What can I give back to the LORD for the blessings God has poured out on me?

People: **I'll lift high the cup of salvation and call on the name of God.**

**\*Hymn                      *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*                      CH # 6**

Words: Johann J. Schutz, 1675; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1864, alt.

Music: Bohemian Brethren's Kirchengesange, 1566; harm. Maurice F. Bell, 1906

**Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,  
the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.  
With healing balm my soul is filled and every faithless murmur stilled;  
to God all praise and glory.**

**Our God is never far away, but through all grief distressing,  
an ever present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing.  
As with a mother's tender hand, God gently leads the chosen band:  
to God all praise and glory.**

**Then all my glad-some way along, I sing aloud your praises,  
that all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises.  
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart, both soul and body bear your part:  
to God all praise and glory.**

**Let all who name Christ's holy name give God all praise and glory;  
let all who own God's power proclaim aloud the wondrous story!  
Cast each false idol from its throne, for Christ is Lord, and Christ  
alone: to God all praise and glory.**

**\*Invocation (in unison)**

**O God, you are our only true refuge, our steadfast shelter. We seek you; we need you; we yearn for you. Even when we run from you; even when we wander long and far from your heart, squandering our talents and blessings, you continue to call us home. We want to come home to you, O God, and to one another. Show us the path to return to the calm and peace of resting in your love. Amen.**

## **\*Passing the Peace**

Pastor: Christ is risen!

People: **Yes! I can see him in your face.**

## **Choir Anthem**

### ***Lord of the Dance***

Sydney Carter

Words: Sydney Carter; Music: Shaker Tune, arr. Don Hart

## **Time with God's Children**

### **Scripture Reading**

**Acts 2:22-40**

### **\*Hymn**

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

**CH # 254**

Words: Edwin Hatch, 1878, alt. Music: Robert Jackson, 1888\*PD.

**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.**

## **The Good News**

### ***"Heal the Earth"***

Pastor Paul Day

## **A Litany for Breaking the Silence**

**X** a candle is extinguished; **+** a candle is re-lighted.

Pastor: Every day someone is told that they are ugly. Every day someone is told that they are stupid. Every day someone is told that they are worthless. Hear us now, God, as we lift up to you, either out loud or silently, the names of those we know who have suffered this.

**X People: Heal us, O God.**

Pastor: Every 15 minutes a woman is raped. One in six boys is molested by the time he reaches age 16. Every day someone's sexual health is assaulted and violated. Hear us now, God, as we lift up to you, either out loud or silently, the names of those we know who have suffered this.

**X People: Heal us, O God.**

Pastor: Hundreds of children are born each year to people who cannot care for them or who do not want them. Everywhere, there are people who do not, or do not know how to, take responsibility for their own sexuality. Hear us now, God, as we lift up to you, either out loud or silently, the names of those we know who have suffered this.

**X People: Heal us, O God.**

Pastor: Each day thousands of people are subjected to sexist remarks or jokes. In schools and workplaces around the world, people are sexually harassed. Hear us now, God, as we lift up to you, either out loud or silently, the names of those we know who have suffered this.

**X People: Heal us, O God.**

Pastor: In cities and towns all over the world, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people are harassed and discriminated against because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Racially diverse couples are harassed. People in wheelchairs and with other physical or mental challenges are treated as if they were less than others. Hear us now, God, as we lift up to you, either out loud or silently, the names of those we know who have suffered this.

**X People: Heal us, O God.**

Pastor: God, give us the strength to work for the self-worth of all people; + to work for the sexual health for all people; + to take responsibility for our own sexuality; + to work for justice and strive to be inclusive of all your people. + Help us keep your light alive in our world. +

People: **Amen.**

**Prayers of the People**

You may come forward and light a candle for your own specific prayers; please speak clearly into the microphone. Those who wish to be anointed for healing may go forward to the Pastor.

### **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**

I will offer a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD. I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people.

**Psalm 116:17-18**

### **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)**

**Loving God, may your Church be a place where we learn about love and practice it; where we envision peace and work to build it; where we meet partners in faith to walk with us in following your ways; where we discover gifts and offer them. May your Spirit guide us toward joy and generosity, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

### **\*Hymn**

***This Is My Father's World***

**CH # 59**

Words: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1901, alt.

Music: Traditional English melody; adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915

**This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears,  
all nature sings and round me rings the music of the spheres.**

**This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees,  
of skies and seas; God's hands the wonders wrought.**

**This is my Father's world; the birds their carols raise,  
the morning light, the flowers bright, declare their Maker's praise.  
Our God has made this world and shines in all that's fair;  
in rustling grass I hear God pass, who speaks to me everywhere.**

**Our God has made this world; oh, let us ne'er forget that  
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.  
God trusts us with this world, to keep it clean and fair.  
All earth and trees, the skies and seas, God's creatures everywhere.**

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**from 1 Peter 1:18-23**

You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways of the world, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. Now that you have purified your souls so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

**Postlude**

**We Go Forth to Serve God and Our Neighbors**

Note: Hymns and songs are licensed under One License #A-73187 and CCLI #48404708

## 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 at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1301940> or text "Give" to 833-751-0314.



## **THIS WEEK\***

Tue. 10:00 am, Tuesday Gals

Wed. 6:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal

### **Next Lord's Day – April 30 – Fourth Sunday of Easter**

8:30 am, Choir Rehearsal

9:30 am, Worship Service

2:00 pm, Cumberland Association Spring Meeting

## **IN OUR PRAYERS\***

We extend our prayers and sympathy to the family of Pearl Brackett, who passed away on April 6. Peace be to her memory.

We also extend our prayers and sympathy to the family of Gladys Hanson, who passed away on April 8. Peace be to her memory.

**Congregation & Community:** Diana Day, Sandra & Vince Golonka, Sandra Hanson Green, Wayne Malloch, Blanche Mays, Ladd Meyerhoff, Cindy Thompson

**Nation & World:** Sexual Assault Awareness Month; Autism Awareness Month; National Audubon Day (Wed.) and Arbor Day (Fri.); Gun Violence, near and far; Peace in Ukraine and all places of conflict

\*Please submit items for the Church Calendar or the Prayer List to Pastor Day or Lyn Glassock by Tuesday in order to be included in the bulletin. Thank You.