

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



**Easter Sunday**

**April 9, 2023**

**Celebration of the Resurrection ~ 9:30 a.m.**

**Easter Sunday**

**April 2, 2023**

**Celebration of the Resurrection ~ 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**

So, friends, every day do something  
that won't compute. Love the Lord.  
Love the world. Work for nothing.  
Take all that you have and be poor.  
Love someone who does not deserve it. . . .  
Ask the questions that have no answers.  
Invest in the millennium. Plant sequoias. . . .  
Put your faith in the two inches of humus  
that will build under the trees every thousand years. . . .  
Expect the end of the world. Laugh.  
Laughter is immeasurable. Be joyful  
though you have considered all the facts. . . .  
Practice resurrection.

Wendell Berry, *Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front*

### **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 118**

Pastor: Christ is risen!

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

Pastor: The LORD is my strength and my might;

People: **He has become my salvation.**

Pastor: The stone the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

People: **This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.**

Pastor: This is the day that the Lord has made.

People: **We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

## \*Hymn

### *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*

**CH # 216**

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.

Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708; desc. Charles H. Webb

**Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!**

**All creation, join to say, Alleluia!**

**Raise you joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!**

**Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!**

**Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!**

**Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!**

**Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia!**

**Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!**

**Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!**

**Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!**

**Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!**

**Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!**

**Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!**

**Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!**

**Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!**

**Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

## \*Invocation (in unison)

**God of new beginnings, of new dawns and new mercies: Remind us again of your Presence. In this time of worship speak your word of hope, encouragement, and peace. Pour your Holy Spirit into our lives that we may reflect your image as people of the Resurrection, in covenant with you through our Risen Lord. Amen.**

**The Gospel**

**Matthew 28:1-10**

### **Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

**Amazing God, we know there is nothing you cannot overcome. We confess to our profound need of your love, strength, and mercy. Too often, we come toward the tomb resigned to the status quo. We anticipate the worst even when you provide every good and perfect gift. We allow despair over the condition of our world overwhelm us when you call us to follow you. Strengthen us to live abundantly in your kingdom on earth. Transform us and breathe new life into us.**

**+ Silent Prayer +**

### **Words of Grace**

The One who transformed death can and will certainly transform our lives. Jesus welcomes us on the journey to new life. No matter how many times our steps stray, we hide from hard things, or we betray the good news, God's grace meets us with an unfailing love to guide us on the path of life abundant and everlasting. Receive the resurrection power of the One who was and is and is to come.

### **\*Passing the Peace**

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

**Choir Anthem      *Festival Anthem on Ellecombe*      arr. David Lantz III**

**The Good News      *Practice Resurrection*      Pastor Paul Day  
**Acts 10:34-43; Colossians 3:1-4, 12-17****

**\*Hymn**

***Because He Lives – vv. 1 & 3***

**CH # 562**

Words: Gloria and William J. Gaither, 1971; Music: William J. Gaither, 1971

**God sent his Son, they called him Jesus;  
he came to love, heal, and forgive;  
he lived and died to by my pardon,  
an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives  
*Because he lives, I can face tomorrow;  
because he lives, all fear is gone;  
because I know he holds the future,  
and life is worth the living just because he lives.***

**And then one day I'll cross the river;  
I'll fight life's final war with pain;  
and then as death gives way to victory,  
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know he reigns.  
*Because he lives, I can face tomorrow;  
because he lives, all fear is gone;  
because I know he holds the future,  
and life is worth the living just because he lives.***

**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**

*Worship Ways*

**“So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.” In the giving of**

our gifts, we seek to align ourselves with the values of God's kingdom, to trust in the Provider, and to follow in the way of Jesus.

## 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)

**Giving God, receive this portion of the gifts you have given to us.  
May our time, treasure, and talent be magnified and multiplied for  
your glory. Amen.**

### \*Hymn

#### *Thine Is the Glory*

**CH # 218**

Words: Edmond I. Budry, 1904; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1923; Music: George F. Handel, 1746

**Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
endless is the victory thou o'er death has won.  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.**

*Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

**Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;  
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;  
let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,  
for our Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.**

*Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!  
Life is nought without thee; aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love.  
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.**

*Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Colossians 3:1-4, 12-17**

**Postlude**

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

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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](http://www.maineucc.org)  
YouTube: [youtube.com/c/nyccucc](https://www.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

## **THIS WEEK**

Mon. 7:00 pm, Missions Committee

Tue. 10:00 am, Tuesday Gals  
6:00 pm, Trustees

Wed. 6:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal

Sat. 7:30 am, Men's Club, Toddy Brook

### **Next Lord's Day – April 16 – Bright Sunday (Holy Humor Sunday)**

8:30 am, Choir Rehearsal

9:30 am, Worship Service

### **Looking ahead . . .**

April 22 – 9 am—3pm, Alive & Thrive Workshop, Winthrop Cong'l. Church

April 30 – 2:00 pm, Cumberland Association Spring Meeting – Here!

## **IN OUR PRAYERS**

Sandra and Vince Golonka  
Wayne Malloch  
Blanche Mays  
Ladd Meyerhoff  
Cindy Tompson