



## Did you know John Adams...

Our second president is said in many sources to have been a “Unitarian.” It seems clear that he did side with those who called themselves “rational Christians” and would later be labeled “Unitarians.” However, that label was not in common use until after 1815; so, for most of his life, John Adams would have been considered a Congregationalist.

Congregationalism was a family tradition. The Adams family came to America in the seventeenth century as what David McCullough calls “part of the great Puritan migration.” Adams is often portrayed as somewhat cold, very logical, extremely unemotional. But in some of his writings, he looked like a quite idealistic person, a man of deep feeling: *“It is an idea of the Christian religion, and ever has been of all believers of the immortality of the soul, that the intellectual part of man is capable of progressive improvement forever. This phrase [from St. Paul] ‘rejoice evermore’ shall never be out of my heart, memory or mouth again as long as I live, if I can help it. This is my ‘perfectibility of man.’”*

Thomas Jefferson and John Adams were fierce political rivals in their younger years. Once while they were serving together in the Continental Congress, Adams objected sharply to what he saw as a disrespect for Christianity on Jefferson’s part. But later in life, the two old patriots became very dear friends. John died on July 4, 1826, the same day as Thomas Jefferson, on the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

**...was a Congregationalist?**

Celebrating 400 Years of American Congregationalism  
[Learn more about our Congregational History at naccc.org](http://naccc.org)



## Call To Worship

L: We come to worship, celebrating 400 years since the landing of the Pilgrims.

**C: They founded a life together based on faith in God and Christ’s constant care.**

L: They dared to rise up and create a country based entirely on leaning on God.

**C: And so we come week after week, but especially this year thanking God for our life together as God’s Pilgrim people.**

## Invocation (in unison)

Almighty God, who was before all that is, who remains beside us, one who fills our lives with blessings, we celebrate this day the lives of the men and women known as Pilgrims. In Your singularity, they found commonness; in multiplicity of their world, they found diversity; in their chords and discords, they experienced a harmony in life. In their worship, they found strength and courage and hope. So may we worship You, knowing You expect the same from us. Amen

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