



Did you know George Burroughs...

Born in 1652, in Suffolk, England, George came to the settlement of Roxbury, in the Massachusetts Bay Colony with his mother when he was a child. He graduated from Harvard College in 1670 with distinguished honors, and became a Congregational minister.

He married his first wife, Hannah Fisher, in 1673. In 1874, he moved to Falmouth, Maine, where he served as pastor of Falmouth Congregational Church. He continued to serve as the pastor until the town was attacked and destroyed during a Wabanaki raid on August 11, 1676.

He served in Salem Village 1680 - 1683, departing after a pay dispute with the congregation. Hannah had passed away, and he had to borrow money for funeral expenses, as the congregation had failed to pay his salary. He remarried Sarah Ruck Hathorne, who also died some time later.

George moved to Wells, Maine, where he married again and continued in the ministry. It was while he was there that he was arrested and convicted on charges of witchcraft on April 30, 1692, having been accused by some personal enemies from his former congregation who had sued him for debt.

Standing on the ladder, waiting to be hanged, he recited the Lord's Prayer, something considered impossible for a witch to do. After he was killed, Cotton Mather spoke from horseback to the crowd, assuring them that George had been convicted in a court of law. His speech convinced the crowd to execute four others similarly accused and convicted. He was the only minister executed for witchcraft during the Salem witch trials.

...was a Congregationalist?

Celebrating 400 Years of American Congregationalism
Learn more about our Congregational History at naccc.org



Call To Worship

L: Each day will have its trials

C: Each day we'll see God's grace

L: For God has promised surely

C: To bless us in our place

L: May we live with a pilgrim's spirit

C: This hour and every day

L: To cast our lot upon the Lord

C: In work, in worship, and in play

Invocation (in unison)

We thank You, good Lord, as we pray, for Your blessings on this day and this hour of worship. We thank You for the pilgrim spirit which You have instilled in us from the beginning of the Christian Church, through the time of the Pilgrims of our shores 400 years ago, and into this congregation. May our worship honor their faith and their spirit. In Christ's name, we pray, Amen

Historical story by: Rev. Garry Fisher

Liturgy by: Rev. Tom Richard