

**NORTH HAVEN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Sunday, October 4, 2020

9:30 a.m.

**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 22
The Sacrament of Communion**

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *Andantino mosso*

G. Ramella

***OPENING HYMN:** "Praise with Joy the World's Creator"

V 312

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:** (from James 3:17-18)

Leader: God's wisdom is pure, peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, without uncertainty or insincerity.

PEOPLE: Our wisdom is none of these things. We compete for knowledge, and our learning fosters belligerence. Our understanding is insufficient and our compassion is limited. We long for certainty, and sacrifice too much for its sake. We strive for conditional sincerity.

Leader: The harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

PEOPLE: We do not fully comprehend God's wisdom or achieve God's righteousness, but we come together to share insight, read Scripture, sing, pray, and make peace.

Leader: Let us worship together.

ALL: Come, let us worship together!**

***LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE ~unison**

For this fragile planet earth,
its times and tides, its sunsets and seasons:

We give thanks this day.

For our human community,
our common past and future hope, our oneness transcending all separation,
our capacity to work for peace and justice in the midst of hostility and oppression:

We give thanks this day.

For high hopes and noble causes, for faith without fanaticism,
for understanding of views not shared:

We give thanks this day.

For all who have labored and suffered for a fairer world,
who have lived so that others might live in dignity and freedom:

We give thanks this day.

For human liberty and sacred rites;
for opportunities to change and grow, to affirm and choose:

We give thanks this day.

We pray that we may live not by our fears but by our hopes,
not by our words but by our deeds. ^{##} Amen.

Rev. O. Eugene Pickett

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:~*unison*

God of vibrant life, you place us in your vineyard, and give us one another to share the labor of tending the vines as they grow, yet we act as if this land belongs to us alone and not to you.

You have shown us your ways of nurture, yet we refuse to learn. You send your messengers, and we refuse to listen.

Forgive our foolish ways, and train us to tend this world, your vineyard,
Through Jesus Christ, the living vine and faithful vine keeper.** Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ALL: Thanks be to God

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Philippians 3:4b-14

p. 1340

....If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 21:33-46

p. 1169

“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes’?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

SPECIAL MUSIC: *In Remembrance of Me*
Chancel Choir

Ragan Courtney & Buryl Red

This special anthem was recorded through Zoom meetings and the magic of smart phones!
Organ and organ-flute accompaniment by Gary Snowbeck, compiled, adapted, and directed
by Jeffrey Hutchins.

In remembrance of me eat this bread
In remembrance of me drink this wine
In remembrance of me pray for the time
When God's own will is done.

In remembrance of me heal the sick
In remembrance of me feed the poor
In remembrance of me open the door
And let my people in, let them in.

Take eat and be comforted
Drink and remember too
That this is my body and precious blood
Shed for you, shed for you.

In remembrance of me search for truth
In remembrance of me always love
In remembrance of me don't look above
But in your heart.
Look in your heart for God.

Do this in remembrance of me
Do this in remembrance of me
In remembrance of me.

MEDITATION: “Tending the Covenant”

Scott G. Morrow

PASTORAL CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE OFFERTORY:

*Doxology

Tune: Old Hundredth

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation and Consecration

The Lord's Prayer - 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Distribution

Prayer of Thanksgiving

GREETING OF PEACE

***CLOSING HYMN:** "I Feel the Winds of God"

V 625

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: *Festal Postlude*

Charles Gounod

*Those who are able, please stand.

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The flowers this morning are given by Bernie and Elfie Hummel in memory of Irmgard Hummel, mother of Bernie.

In Our Prayers This Week are: Heather Purcell, Ona & Sam Gott, Ben & Cole Purcell, Heidi Welch, Mary Cestaro, Tim Peiffer, David Bellonio, Marlene Belonio, Stefan McKosky, Rose Monaco, Sabrina Selmer, Linda Shannon, Elaine Burr, Joyce Bellonio, and Betsy Gumbart.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Linda Nielsen 10/04, Hannah Grant 10/07, Nancie Estep 10/09, Kayla McKosky 10/09, Olivia Scoppetto 10/09, Martin Traudt 10/10, Jeff Whipple 10/11.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: Cheryl & Dana Andrews 10/05, Rebecca & Edward Bogaert 10/07.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Neighbors In Need Special Offering will be received TODAY. The Neighbors In Need offering is an all-church special offering across the United Church of Christ. It is dedicated to programs of community building and engagement and social justice around the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Please give prayerfully and generously. You may mail your gifts to the church, marked "Neighbors In Need" or "NIN", or you may make your gift online through the church website.

World Communion Sunday is TODAY. We will celebrate Communion as a part of our worship service. As you prepare for worship, please gather what you will use for Communion. Give some thought to the celebration of communion as it is shared around the world, and consider choosing something connecting with the church in the wider world – pita bread or soda bread or pan dulce, and an interesting juice or wine.

Celebration of the Life of David Purcell. You are invited greet David’s family during calling hours on Saturday, Oct. 10, 1-3pm, at W. S. Clancy Memorial Funeral Home, 244 N. Main Street, Branford. Please note that social distancing guidelines will be in effect.

Midafternoon Worship Next Sunday – Outdoors and In-Person. We will have a Midafternoon Service next Sunday, Oct. 11, at 3pm. Please bring folding chair and a mask, and join us on the church lawn on the Linsley Street side. Dress warmly! This will be a short service.

Thank you to all who continue to support the Food Pantry!

We would appreciate all donations, both non-perishable and monetary. Please bring your donations to the church between 8:00 and 2:30 p.m. Monday – Friday, or donate through our online giving via the website. Thank you for your support.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	Oct. 4	9:30 a.m.	WORSHIP (Online)
		11:30	RALLY DAY (Lawn)
		5:00 p.m.	OASIS YOUTH (Zoom)
Monday	Oct. 5	10:00 a.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Tuesday	Oct. 6	5:30 p.m.	BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
		7:00 p.m.	MLB (Zoom)
Wednesday	Oct. 7	10:00 a.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
		1:00 p.m.	STAFF MEETING (Zoom)
		5:00 p.m.	PASTORAL RELATIONS (ZOOM)
		7:00 p.m.	REOPENING TEAM (Zoom)
Thursday	Oct. 8	7:00 p.m.	CHANCEL CHOIR (Zoom)
Friday	Oct. 9	10:00 a.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Saturday	Oct. 10	9:30 a.m.	Musical Folk (Lawn)
Sunday	Oct. 11	9:30 a.m.	WORSHIP (Online)
		3:00 p.m.	AFTERNOON WORSHIP Outdoors In-Person
		5:00 p.m.	OASIS YOUTH In-Person

*Small print indicates non-Church function

Bold print starts new day.

Church Office Staff:

All the Members, Ministers to the World
The Reverend Scott G. Morrow, Senior Pastor
Karlee Etter, Ministry Coordinator for Children
Jeffrey Hutchins, Director of Music
Gary Snowbeck, Organist
Julie Schweickert, Office Manager
Todd Swarney, Sexton
Telephone: 203-239-5691
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MISSION

Our church's mission is to bind ourselves with Jesus Christ in:

- Worship together;
- Nurture of Christian discipleship; and
- Compassionate service to our community and beyond.

VISION

We are a hub for the larger community as a church of action:

- Conducting regular, robust worship in a responsible and relevant way in an ever changing and challenging world;
- Welcoming all people from different and diverse backgrounds to become a community of disciples together; and
- Involved in purposeful action and activities through the structure of self-directed Mission Teams.

VALUES

We:

- Pray together, encourage each other, and trust one another;
- Take personal responsibility for fellowship and our community; and
- Celebrate with honored traditions.

*OPENING HYMN: "Praise with Joy the World's Creator"

1 Praise with joy the world's Cre - a - tor, God of jus - tice,
 2 Praise to Christ who feeds the hun - gry, frees the cap - tive,
 3 Praise the Spir - it sent a - mong us, lib - er - at - ing
 4 Praise the Mak - er, Christ, and Spir - it, one God in com -

love, and peace, source and end of hu - man know - ledge,
 finds the lost, heals the sick, up - sets re - li - gion,
 truth from pride, forg - ing bonds where race or gen - der,
 mu - ni - ty, call - ing Chris - tians to em - bo - dy

God whose grace shall ne - ver cease. Cel - e - brate the
 fear - less both of fate and cost. Cel - e - brate Christ's
 age or na - tion dare di - vide. Cel - e - brate the
 one - ness and di - ver - si - ty. This the world shall

Mak - er's glo - ry, power to res - cue and re - lease.
 con - stant pres - ence: friend and strang - er, guest and host.
 Spir - it's treas - ure: fool - ish - ness none dare de - ride.
 see re - flect - ed: God is One and One in Three.

*CLOSING HYMN: "I Feel the Winds of God"

1 I feel the winds of God to - day; to -
 2 It is the wind of God that dries my
 3 If ev - er I for - get your love and

day my sail I lift, though heav - y oft with
 vain re - gret - ful tears, un - til with brav - er
 how that love was shown, lift high the blood - red

drench - ing spray and torn with man - y a rift;
 thoughts shall rise the pur - er, bright - er years;
 flag a - bove, it bears your name a - lone.

if hope but light the wa - ter's crest, and
 if cast on shores of self - ish ease or
 Great pi - lot of my on - ward way, you

Christ my bark will use, I'll seek the seas at
 plea - sure I should be, O let me feel your
 will not let me drift. I feel the winds of

his be - hest, and brave an - oth - er cruise.
 fresh - ening breeze, and I'll put back to sea.
 God to - day; to - day my sail I lift.