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North Haven
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Third Sunday of Advent

Joy



North Haven, Connecticut
An Open & Affirming Congregation

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

Sunday, December 13, 2020

9:30 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: Prelude on *Savior of the Nations, Come*, v. 2

Anton Kniller

***OPENING HYMN:** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

V2

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: God has shown love among us by coming into the world in Christ,

PEOPLE: that all people might live.

Leader: My friends, if God has so loved us,

PEOPLE: we also ought to love one another.

Leader: for if we love one another,

PEOPLE: God dwells in us.

Leader: Let us worship the Holy One

ALL: and seek to love as we have been loved. **

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

Compass my soul, O God, Center of the Universe.

Awake my senses to your gravitational pull.

Open me to the preciousness of each moment
as it enfolds.....in peace.

Yes, compass my soul home.### Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:~unison

O Holy God, our Advent waiting is a confession. We wait for a Messiah because the proud are still powerful, the mighty are still exalted, and hungry people stand unheard at the door. We wait for your incarnation in human form because we have not recognized you in our sister, we have not loved you in our brother, we have not served you in our neighbor. In the stillness of Advent love and light, heal us and make us new through the good tidings of your presence in our lives. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ALL: Thanks be to God

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*trespasses*)

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.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

The Nottingham Family

Sung Response: "People Look East" v. 3 V9

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled;
even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the bird is on the way.

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

p. 681

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

HERE ENDS THE READING. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

p. 1347

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

HERE ENDS THE READING. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

ANTHEM: *Celtic Advent Carol* words and music by David Angerman & Michael Barrett
Sung by the Chancel Choir

This was recorded live in the NHCC Sanctuary on Sunday morning, Dec. 9, 2018.

SERMON: “Intentional Advent”

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

GREETING OF PEACE

***CLOSING HYMN:** “Hark the Glad Sound”

V29

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: Prelude on *Wake, Awake!*

Heinrich Schmidt

*Those who are able, please stand.

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The flowers today are given by Tom and Wendy Glynn in loving memory of Wendy's Dad, Richard Jahoda, who passed away 21 years ago but who is missed more with every passing year.

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 Silk 12/14, Carol Mitchell 12/15, Cynthia Boerma Campos 12/18, Carol Amico 12/19, Damon Quinn 12/19, Stefan McKosky 12/20.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: Sally & Anthony Pallatto 12/14.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	12/13	9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 2:00 5:00	WORSHIP – Online HARVEST FAIR PICK-UP (CARROL HALL) FOOD DRIVE – SORTING OASIS (Zoom)
Monday	12/14	10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN FOOD DRIVE – SORTING
Tuesday	12/15	6:00 p.m.	BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
Wednesday	12/16	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	WINDOW DEADLINE FOOD PANTRY OPEN STAFF MEETING (Zoom)
Thursday	12/17	12:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	FOOD DRIVE–PACKING NONPERISHABLE CHANCEL CHOIR (Zoom)
Friday	12/18	10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 3:00	FOOD PANTRY OPEN FOOD DRIVE – PRODUCE SORTING/PACKING FOOD DRIVE–PACKING NONPERISHABLE
Saturday	12/19	8:00 a.m. 9:00 1:00 p.m.	MEN’S FELLOWSHIP (Zoom) FOOD DRIVE – PICK UP / DELIVERY FOOD DRIVE - CLEANUP
Sunday	12/20	9:30 a.m. 5:00	WORSHIP – Online OASIS (Zoom)

*Small print indicates non-Church function

Bold print starts new day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Make your Church Pledge Online!

We are trying many new ways of reaching out to members and friends this year. In conjunction with the **Season of Generosity** this year, you have the opportunity to make your pledge of financial support for the church next year online, through the church website (www.northhavenucc.org). On the homepage of the website you will see a bright purple banner invitation “Make Your 2021 Pledge Today.” Click on the purple banner, and the Generosity page will open. Here you will find some comments from church members reflecting on their giving to the church, and a Pledge Card form which you can fill out and submit from the web page. If you would like a copy as your confirmation, you can print the screen before you submit your pledge, or call the Church Office and Julie Schweickert will send it to you.



The First Annual New England “VIRTUAL” Fair has closed. Please come to the church to pick up your order on Sunday Dec 13th, 12-2:00 p.m. Thank you to all who participated in this event.

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
Fax: 203-234-1751
Email: churchoffice@northhavenucc.org
Website: northhavenucc.org

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: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

C F B♭ C F C F B♭ C F

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free:
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; born a child and yet a king;
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

F C A Dm G C F B♭ F C F

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 born to reign in us for ev - er; now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Descant

4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, your wel - come

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - iour comes, the Sav - iour
 2 He comes, the pris - oners to re - lease in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, your wel - come

shall pro - claim, and heaven's e - ter - nal arch - es

pro - mised long: let ev - ery heart pre - pare a
 bond - age held; the gates of brass be - fore him
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures of his
 shall pro - claim, and heaven's e - ter - nal arch - es

ring with your be - lov - ed name.

throne, and ev - ery voice a song.
 burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 grace to bless the hum - ble poor.
 ring with your be - lov - ed name.