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North Haven
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



North Haven, Connecticut
An Open & Affirming Congregation

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

Sunday, February 28, 2021

9:30 a.m.

Second Sunday in Lent

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken?*

Setting by J.C. Oley

***OPENING HYMN:** "Be Thou My Vision"

V642

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: We gather this day to worship our God, whose words and ways challenge us.
God invites us to lose our selfishness to find ourselves.

PEOPLE: God calls us to be fools in the world to show forth the wisdom of Christ.

Leader: God urges us to empty ourselves to discover life's fullness.

PEOPLE: God bids us to be obedient to a divine will so we might know true freedom.

Leader: We come to worship our Creator, seeking to have our faith challenged into growth.

ALL: We root our faith in worship, seeking to find nourishment for our spirits in this growing season of Lent.**

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

Come...God of wisdom and grace;
Fill our hearts with Your peace, open our eyes that we may see
the wonders of Your loving presence all around us- and deep within us.
May we be dazzled and drenched by Your loving compassion
and reflect this radiant peace to the world.## Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:~unison

God of compassion, you know how we rebel against you. You know how we doubt and fear
and hold back, when you call us to freedom and to partnership in Jesus Christ.
God, forgive us. Free us by the power of your cross, that we may serve you without fear.
Grant us your peace through Jesus Christ who was faithful to the end.** 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 FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Genesis 17:1-7,15-16

p. 12

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

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

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Romans 4:13-25

p. 1297

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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

HYMN OF PROMISE: “In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

V703

SERMON: “Faith is a Game-Changer”

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

May the peace of God in Jesus Christ be with you always!

*CLOSING HYMN: "To Abraham and Sarah"

V634

*THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: Praeambulum on Tone III

Franz Murschhauser

*Those who are able, please stand.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Mark Butterworth 02/28, Julie Schweickert 03/02, Stephen Baraquin 03/03, Aaron Baraquin 03/03, Sophia Keeler, 03/03, Amelia Murphy 03/05, Jaclyn Murphy 03/05, Francis Dutko 03/06, Cheryl Dutko 03/06.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: Fran & Cheryl Dutko 3/3.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Podcast for Lent I want to share a project by Rev. Doug Clark, a retired UCC pastor and colleague of mine. This may be of interest to you during Lent.

Are you concerned about the urgency of the climate crisis? Would you like to explore some faith-based resources for taking action? You're invited to join Jenna Van Donselaar, from Young Evangelicals for Climate Action, and Doug Clark, retired UCC pastor and environmental theologian, for a six-week podcast series around the theme of a "Fossil Fuel Free Lent." We'll be connecting the traditional Lenten practices of fasting and prayer with fasting from our use of fossil fuels and engaging in prayerful study of the creation narratives in the biblical book of Genesis. To listen to the podcast, search "Creation Care Conversations" wherever you get your podcasts, or:

<https://open.spotify.com/show/4Q0C08CaI65Rib26bL8FWK?si=Xbf9UwVRTCuJXA2fpUq23g>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	2/28	9:30 a.m. 11:00 12:00 p.m. 5:00	WORSHIP – Online (Pre-Recorded) CHURCH SCHOOL:PreK-Gr2 (Zoom) CHURCH SCHOOL:Gr3-Gr7 (Zoom) OASIS (Zoom)
Monday	3/1	10:00 a.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Tuesday	3/2	5:30 p.m. 7:00	BIBLE STUDY (Zoom) MLB (Zoom)
Wednesday	3/3	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00	FOOD PANTRY OPEN STAFF MEETING (Zoom) REOPENING (Zoom)
Thursday	3/4	7:00 p.m.	CHANCEL CHOIR (Zoom)
Friday	3/5	10:00 a.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Saturday	3/6	8:00a.m.	MEN’S FELLOWSHIP (Zoom)
Sunday	3/7	9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	WORSHIP – Online (LiveStream) OASIS (Zoom)

*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.

Unison

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O joy of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, my calm in all strife;
 ♦ 3 Be thou my bat - tle shield, sword for the fight;
 4 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain emp - ty praise,
 5 Great God of heav - en, af - ter vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me save that thou art,
 I ev - er with thee, and thou in my life;
 ♦ be thou my dig - ni - ty, thou my de - light,
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav - en's sun!

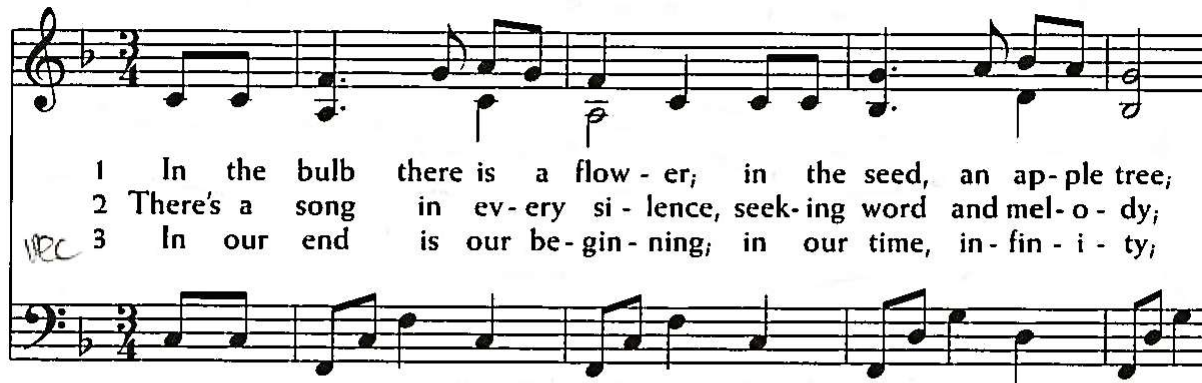
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou lov - ing par - ent, thy child may I be,
 ♦ thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tower;
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing thy pres - ence my light.
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.
 ♦ raise thou me heav - en - ward, O power of my power.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vis - ion, O rul - er of all.

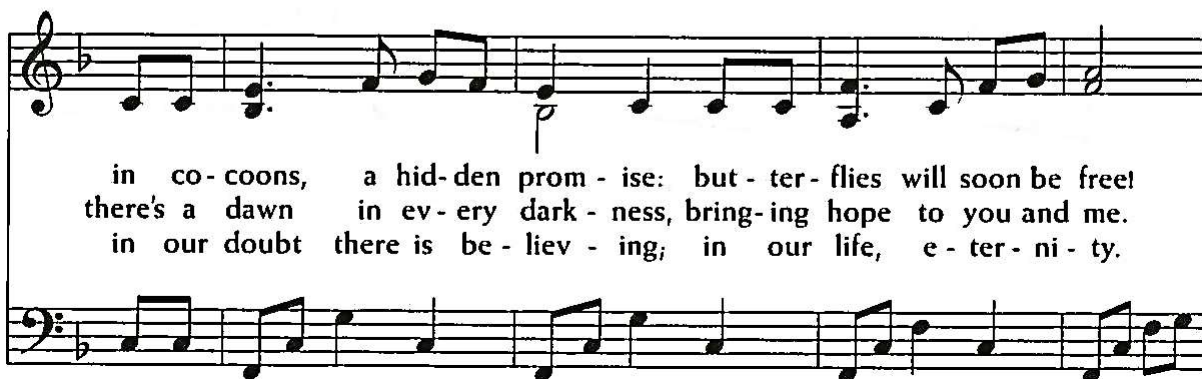
HYMN OF PROMISE: "In the Bulb There Is a Flower"

V703

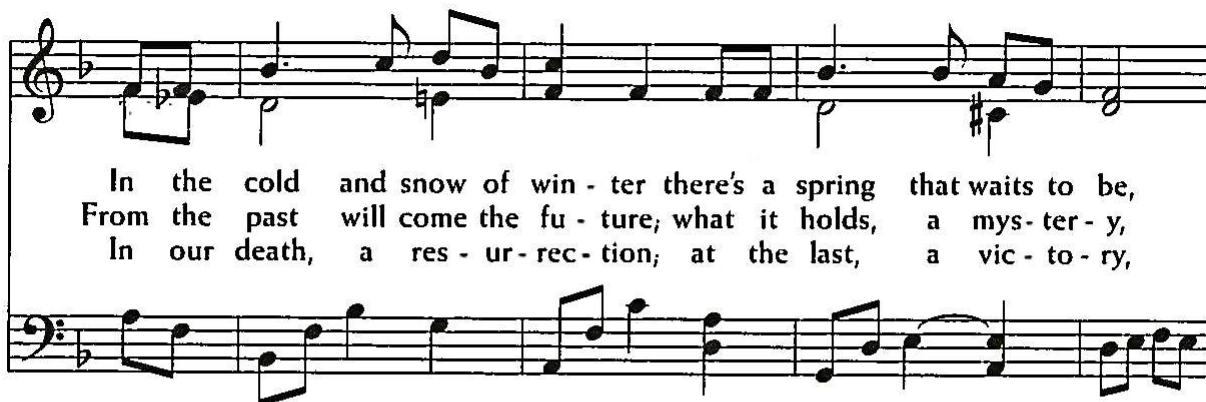
Unison



1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,



un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

1 To Abraham and Sarah
the call of God was clear:
"Go forth and I will show you
a country rich and fair.
You need not fear the journey
for I have pledged my word:
that you shall be my people
and I will be your God."

3 We of this generation
on whom God's hand is laid,
can journey to the future
secure and unafraid,
rejoicing in God's goodness
and trusting in this word:
"that you shall be my people
and I will be your God."

2 From Abraham and Sarah
arose a pilgrim race,
dependent for their journey
on God's abundant grace;
and in their heart was written
by God this saving word:
"that you shall be my people
and I will be your God."

The musical score is written for a four-part vocal setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of A major (indicated by three sharps: F#, C#, G#) and 4/4 time. The score consists of five systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line features a melody with various intervals, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The piano accompaniment provides a harmonic foundation with chords and moving lines. Chord symbols are written above the vocal line: A, (F#m E), A, D, E, A, A, (F#m E), A, D, Esus4, E, A, A, D, E, A, D, E, A, (F#m E), A, D, Esus4, E, A. The score concludes with a double bar line.