

FOUNDED 1716

North Haven
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



North Haven, Connecticut
An Open & Affirming Congregation

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

Sunday, March 21, 2021

9:30 a.m.

**Fifth Sunday in Lent
Proper**

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *Voluntary*

Maurice Greene

***OPENING HYMN:** "Now the Green Blade Rises"

V186

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Come to worship God, who is making a new covenant with us.

PEOPLE: "I will write my law on your hearts," God says.

Leader: "I will be your God. You will be my people." God says.

PEOPLE: We will not have to teach one another about God,

Leader: for we will all know God, from the greatest to the least.

ALL: Come and worship God, who forgets our wrongs and forgives our sins.**

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

God of new beginnings, God of life and possibilities,
as You awaken the frozen ground bringing spring to birth,
awaken our frozen hearts to compassion for one another.
Stir within us the work of Your peace.## Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:~unison

God, you seek us and we flee. You offer us an easy yoke, and we tie ourselves with cares and burdens. You forgive us, and we hoard our complaints against our sisters and brothers. Give us conversion that turns us into the light; teach us a repentance alive in works of love; lead us into the narrow path; guide us through the valley of the shadow. Call us to follow Jesus Christ and in his way to live and suffer, die and rise again.*** Amen.

~ silence ~

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: Jeremiah 31:31-34

p. 724

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: John 12:20-33

p. 1250

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC: *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

Traditional Spiritual
Thomas Andrew Dorsey (1899-1993)

SERMON: “Serving Jesus Means Following Jesus”

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: “Jesus Shall Reign”

V330

*THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *Praeludium*

Daniel Meyer

*Those who are able, please stand.

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The flowers this morning are given by Sandy Carter in loving memory of her beloved grandson Jack Viele on his 32nd birthday. Miss you and love you always.

The flowers last week were given by Cathy Welch to the glory of God in Thanksgiving for the lives celebrated in the March birthdays of son Dan, daughter Heidi and beloved husband Ken.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Ann Schneider 03/21, Lynn Lafleur 03/23, Elaine Burr 03/25, Herbert Schneider 03/25, Amanda Linsky 03/26, Sheree Alexander 03/27.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: Peter & Cheryl Hall 3/27, Bernie & Elfie Hummel 03/28.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Pick Up Palms For Palm Sunday!

We will celebrate Palm Sunday next Sunday. There are palms here at the church, and we would like for you to have some. The palms will be available for pick up this Friday from 8:30-2:30 and Saturday from 9am – Noon. Please come and pick up palms for our online worship.

Items for Online Auction Fundraiser The church is considering having a fundraiser in May, in the form of an on-line auction as we had last July. Thank you to those who have sent in photos of items they would donate. If anyone else has items to donate, please send in photos as indicated in the e-mail that was sent out on Tuesday. We would need more donations to be able to move forward with this fundraiser.



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	3/21	9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	WORSHIP – Online (LiveStream) OASIS (Zoom)
Monday	3/22	10:00 a.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Tuesday	3/23	6:00 p.m.	BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
Wednesday	3/24	10:00 a.m. 1:30 p.m. 7:00	WINDOW MAILING FOOD PANTRY OPEN STAFF MEETING (Zoom) REOPENING (Zoom)
Thursday	3/25	7:00 p.m.	CHANCEL CHOIR (Zoom)
Friday	3/26	8:00 a.m. 10:00 11:30	PICK UP PALMS FOOD PANTRY OPEN Farm to Family (Senior Center)
Saturday	3/27	9:00 a.m. 10:30	PICK UP PALMS North Haven Kids Easter (Parking Lot)
Sunday	3/28	9:30 a.m. 11:00 12:00 p.m. 5:00	WORSHIP (PALM SUNDAY) – Online (LiveStream) CHURCH SCHOOL:PreK-Gr2 (Zoom) CHURCH SCHOOL:Gr3-Gr7 (Zoom) 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
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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.



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by hat - red slain,
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
 think - ing that he would ne - ver wake a - gain,
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain, like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Descant

4 Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his
 3 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns; and pris - oners
 4 Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar

hon - ours to our King, an - gels de - scend with

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 love with sweet - est song, and in - fant voic - es
 leap to lose their chains; the wea - ry find e -
 hon - ours to our King, an - gels de - scend with

songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud A - ment

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud A - ment