

FOUNDED 1716

*North Haven
Congregational Church*

United Church of Christ

Holy Week



North Haven, Connecticut

An Open & Affirming Congregation

NOON PRAYER - HOLY WEEK

Wednesday, March 31, 2021

Opening Sentences

O God, open my lips,

And my mouth shall proclaim your praise. (Psalm 51)

Those who wait for God shall renew their strength,

They shall mount up with wings like eagles:

They shall run and not be weary,

They shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40)

Prayer

Let us pray:

Sustaining God, in the midst of our day,

And embraced by your world

We call upon your wisdom;

We draw upon your strength

We rely upon your grace.

Help us to continue faithfully in your way,

By the power of the Holy Spirit

And in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Hymn “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

P160

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 50:4-9

p. 670

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.

I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, "Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me." The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "Do quickly what you are going to do." Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival"; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

Silent Reflection

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Thanksgiving

Generous and loving God, we thank you for your blessings without number,
We bless you for the beauty of creation:
For day and night, for summer and winter,
For sun and rain, for seed-time and harvest;
For your bounty supplying all our needs.
We bless you for protecting us in our weakness,
And renewing our strength of spirit;
For guiding us as we resist evil, and calling us to your truth, and to your service.
We praise you for sending Jesus to be among us:
For his life on earth, his suffering and death.
For his resurrection to new life and the gift of the Holy Spirit.
Grant, O God, that our hearts may grow in thankfulness
For these and all your gifts of grace,
So that as the people of new life, we may proclaim your praise
In Jesus' name. Amen.

Intercessions *Using response:* Gracious God, hear our prayer;
And in your love, answer.

Compassionate God,

Hear us as we pray:

For your church and its varied ministries

For the work of justice and the healing of creation

For the care of strangers, neighbors, family, friends.

For those isolated by sickness, sorrow, violence, fear

For those broken by the world. ...

For those who face death

Generous and compassionate God,

In your loving purpose, answer our prayers and fulfill our hopes;

And in all things for which we pray,

Give us grace and wisdom to accept your will,

For the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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,

For ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

May we continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Bless God's name. **Thanks be to God.**

1 Be-neath the cross of Je - sus I fain would take my stand,
 2 Up - on that cross of Je - sus Mine eye at times can see
 3 I take, O cross, thy shad - ow For my a - bid - ing place;

The shad - ow of a might - y rock With - in a wea - ry land;
 The ver - y dy - ing form of one Who suf - fered there for me;
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than The sun - shine of his face;

A home with - in the wild - er - ness, A rest up - on the way,
 And from my smit - ten heart with tears Two won - ders I con - fess -
 Con - tent to let the world go by, To know no gain nor loss,

From the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, And the bur - den of the day.
 The won - ders of his glo - rious love And my un - wor - thi - ness.
 My sin - ful self my on - ly shame, My glo - ry all the cross. A - men.