

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

Sunday, July 26, 2020

9:30 a.m.

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 12

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *Andantino*

Charles Tournemire

***OPENING HYMN:** "Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ"

V573

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: We come to worship lonely or empty or frightened.

PEOPLE: We come to worship sick or grieving or discouraged.

Leader: We come from households spiky with anger. We come from unfinished projects, ruined plans, multiple irritations.

PEOPLE: We come from broken diets, hidden drinking, unanswered e-mail, and a week without bedtime prayers.

Leader: We turn away from new and local opportunities to help someone.

**PEOPLE: From inadequacy we seek God's wholeness;
From delinquency we seek God's forgiveness;**

**ALL: From self-imposed impotence we hope to be freed for love and service by
the Gospel's power. ****

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

Good and Gracious God,
Grant us courage to serve others;
For in service there is true life.
Free us to pray for others;
For You are present in every person.
Bring forth song and celebration
so that the spirit will be alive among us.
And let us never tire of the struggle for justice,
let us never tire of the work for peace. Amen.

Cesar Chavez

PRAYER OF INVOCATION:~unison

Merciful God, Just God, Faithful God, God of blessing and God of our most difficult times, we come to you for a moment of quiet in our self-made busyness. We come to you for energy in our weariness. We come to you for challenge when we are willing to settle for our own small plans and dreams. We long for the peace of your presence, even as we are afraid of the urgency of your call. Enter, Spirit of God, into each of our lives and enliven us; enter, Spirit of God, into our community and enable us to love and serve you and all your children.** We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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: 1 Kings 3:5-12

p. 302

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this, g your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

p. 1160

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

SPECIAL MUSIC: “*Seek Ye First The Kingdom of God*”

Karen Lafferty

Sung by Jeff Hutchins

SERMON: “Wishing for Treasure”

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:** “For the Beauty of the Earth”

V226

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: *Postlude in D Minor*

Charles Vincent

*Those who are able, please stand.

** Reprinted by permission of the publisher from *Touch Holiness*, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. Copyright © 2012 The Pilgrim Press.

** Reprinted by permission from <https://www.saintjoanofarc.org/liturgy-music/peace-prayers> ;
retrieved 4/1/20

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-719615.

The flowers this morning are given by Sue Compton to remind us of the beauty of nature.

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, Sabrina Selmer, and Linda Shannon.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Vivian Shipley-Harris 07/26 James Shea 07/27, Heidi Wayne 07/28, Kristin Lynch 07/29, Erin Mahoney 08/01, Caitlin Elizabeth Thalken 08/02.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: Jim & Leslie Dockendorff 08/01.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	July 26	9:30 a.m.	WORSHIP – Live Stream
Monday	July 27	10:00 a.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Tuesday	July 28	6:00 p.m.	BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
Wednesday	July 29	10:00 a.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
		11:00	STAFF MEETING (Zoom)

Thursday	July 30	7:00 p.m.	REOPENING TEAM (Zoom)
Friday	July 31	10:00 a.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Saturday	August 1	8:00 a.m.	MENS FELLOWSHIP (Zoom)
Sunday	August 2	9:30 a.m.	WORSHIP – Live Stream

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
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.

Unison

1 E - ter - nal Spir - it of the liv - ing Christ,
2 Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day;
3 Come with the vi - sion and the strength I need

I know not how to ask or what to say;
help me to see your pur - pose and your will,
to serve my God, and all hu - man - i - ty;

I on - ly know my need, as deep as life,
where I have failed, what I have done a - miss;
ful - fill - ment of my life in love out - poured—

and on - ly you can teach me how to pray.
held in for - giv - ing love, let me be still.
my life in you, O Christ, your love in me.

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the
2 For the beau - ty of each hour of the
3 For the joy of hu - man love, bro - ther,
4 For each per - fect gift sub - lime to our

glo - ry of the skies, for the love which from our
day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and
sis - ter, par - ent, child, friends on earth, and friends a -
race so free - ly given, gra - ces hu - man and di -

birth o - ver and a - round us lies,
flower, sun and moon, and stars of light, God of
bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,
vine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven,

all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.