

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

Sunday, September 27, 2020

9:30 a.m.

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 21

COVENANT OF GATHERING of the North Haven Congregational Church, UCC

We covenant to work with each other and with our family and friends to keep our community safe and healthy.

We respect other people in the same physical space by wearing a face mask which covers nose and mouth the entire time we are gathered.

We show care for each person who is not from our household by keeping six feet safe distance.

We worship God through prayer and praise, and may speak or hum quietly but will not sing aloud while gathered.

We honor others by staying home if we are not feeling well or may have been exposed, knowing we can worship together whether gathered in person or in spirit.

We covenant to love, respect and care for each other through joyful times and in times of challenge, uncertainty and loss.

We worship as one body united in God's love and we listen together for God's still-speaking voice.

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*

Arr. Will Thompson

***OPENING HYMN:** "What Wondrous Love Is This"

V147

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: You will say in that day:

**PEOPLE: God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid; for the Sovereign
God is my strength and my song.**

Leader: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
And you will say in that day:

**PEOPLE: Sing praises to the Sovereign God who has done gloriously; let this be
known in all the earth.****

ALL: Let us worship God.

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

Praise You, Oh God!

That the elders may have wisdom and speak with one voice. Peace be with us.

That the country may have tranquility. Peace be with us.

That the fields may bear much fruit and the land may continue to be fertile. Peace be with us.

That people may continue to increase. Peace be with us.

And may peace reign over earth. Peace be with us. ^{###} Amen. *African Tribal Peace Prayer*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION: ~*unison*

Our Sovereign God, Light of lights, Word of words, Life of all living, Peace of perfect peace: we praise you and thank you for the faith we have, for the hope we can always rekindle, for the love we experience in creation, redemption, and the spirit that dwells in the vortex of the universe and the breath of every child. Bless and consecrate the worship we share this day that in it we may affirm the grace and wonder of our relationship with you.***
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: Exodus 17:1-7 p. 63

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

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

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 21:23-32 p. 1169

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change

your minds and believe him.

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

ANTHEM: *Ride the Chariot*

William Dawson (1899-1990)

Chancel Choir, Susan Beth Higgins, soloist

This performance was recorded live during our 300th anniversary Pierpont concert
December 10, 2016.

SERMON: "Keeping the Covenant"

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:** "The Church of Christ in Every Age"

V601

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: *Jubilate Amen*

Norton Charles

*Those who are able, please stand.

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The flowers this morning are given by Merrilee and George Gladkosky in honor of the beauty of this season and in celebration of the reopening of the sanctuary. We celebrate the bringing together of our church family in person and online.

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.

Service Members who gave their lives protecting our country: Air Force Staff Sgt. Ronald J. Ouellette, Air Force Senior Airman Jason Khai Phan

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Barbara Scheidecker 09/27, Jennifer Russo 09/27, Jillian Russo 09/27, Sarah Struk 09/28, David Bellonio 09/29, Stephen Baraquin 09/29, Joyce Manzo 09/30, Mark Olewnik 09/30, Robert Nielsen 10/01, LaVala Rossi 10/03, Linda Nielsen 10/04.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to all who continue to support the Food Pantry!

We would appreciate all donations, both non-perishable and monetary. Please bring your donations to the church between 8:00 and 2:30 p.m. Monday – Friday, or donate through our online giving via the website. Thank you for your support.

The Neighbors In Need Special Offering will be received next Sunday, Oct. 1. The Neighbors In Need offering is an all-church special offering across the United Church of Christ. It is dedicated to programs of community building and engagement and social justice around the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. One-third of the offering supports the UCC’s Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Please give prayerfully and generously. You may mail your gifts to the church, marked “Neighbors In Need” or “NIN”, or you may make your gift online through the church website.

Next Sunday is World Communion Sunday. We will celebrate Communion as a part of our worship service. As you prepare for worship next Sunday, please gather what you will use for Communion. Give some thought to the celebration of communion as it is shared around the world, and consider choosing something connecting with the church in the wider world – pita bread or soda bread or pan dulce, and an interesting juice or wine.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	Sept. 27	9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	WORSHIP (In person & Online) OASIS YOUTH (Zoom)
Monday	Sept. 28	10:00 a.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Tuesday	Sept. 29	5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	BIBLE STUDY (Zoom) PASTORAL RELATIONS (Zoom)
Wednesday	Sept. 30	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00	FOOD PANTRY OPEN STAFF MEETING (Zoom) REOPENING TEAM (Zoom)
Thursday	Oct. 1	7:00 p.m.	CHANCEL CHOIR (Zoom)
Friday	Oct. 2	10:00 a.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Saturday	Oct. 3	8:00 a.m. 9:30	MENS FELLOWSHIP (Zoom) Musical Folk (Lawn)
Sunday	Oct. 4	9:30 a.m. 11:30 5:00 p.m.	WORSHIP (In person & Online) RALLY DAY (Lawn) OASIS YOUTH (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
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.

1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
2 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,

what won - drous love is this, O my soul!
what won - drous love is this, O my soul!
to God and to the Lamb I will sing,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on,

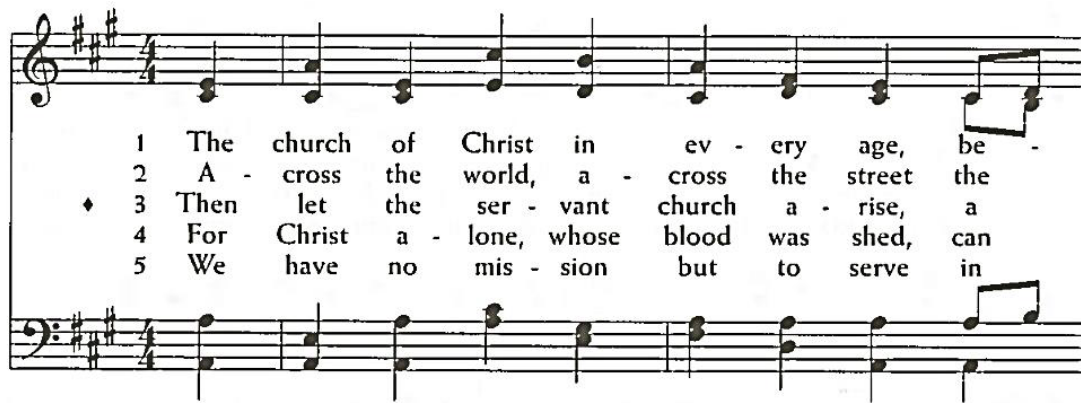
What won - drous love is this that caused the Lord of
What won - drous love is this, that caused the Lord of
to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful

bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul,
life to lay a - side his crown for my soul,
Am, while mil - lions join the theme I will sing,
be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on,

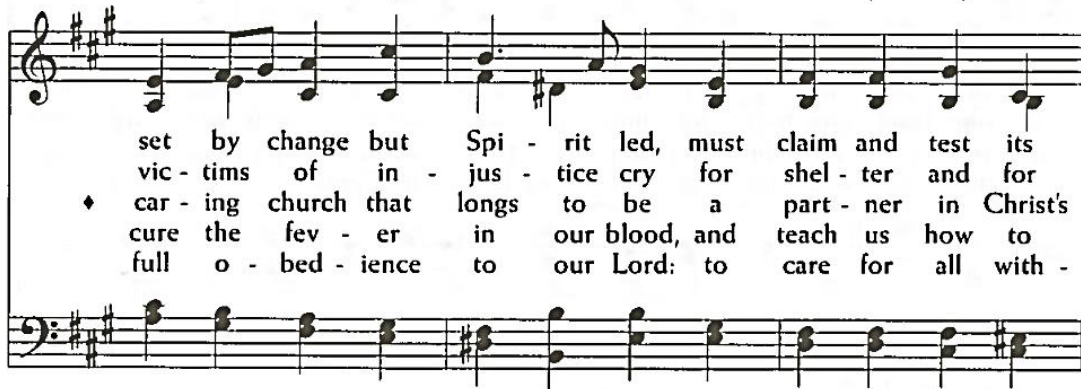
The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It features a four-part vocal setting with soprano, alto, tenor, and bass parts. The lyrics are arranged in four systems, each with a corresponding vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and simple melodic lines in the bass clef.

*CLOSING HYMN: "The Church of Christ in Every Age"

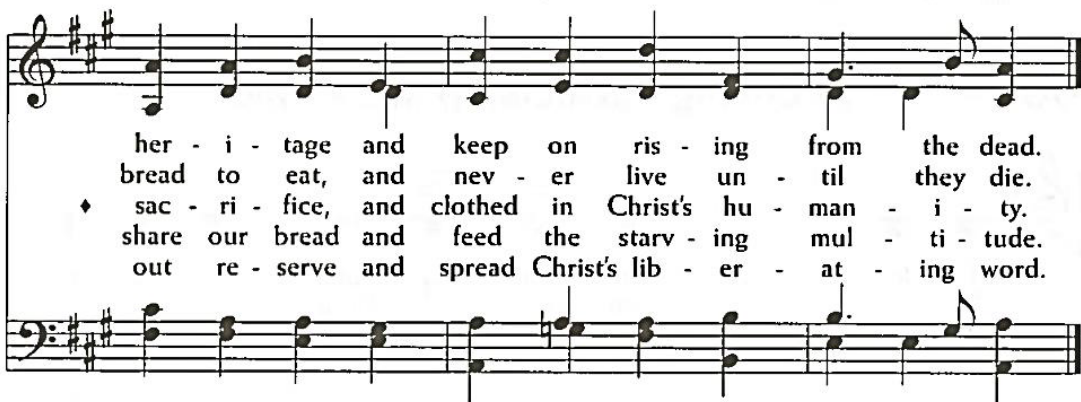
V601



1 The church of Christ in ev - ery age, be -
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street the
♦ 3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a
4 For Christ a - lone, whose blood was shed, can
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in



set by change but Spi - rit led, must claim and test its
vic - tims of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
♦ car - ing church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
cure the fev - er in our blood, and teach us how to
full o - bed - ience to our Lord: to care for all with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
bread to eat, and nev - er live un - til they die.
♦ sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
out re - serve and spread Christ's lib - er - at - ing word.