

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

Sunday, October 25, 2020

9:30 a.m.

**Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 25
The Season of Generosity**

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: Prelude on *Ein' feste Burg*

Johann Gottfried Walther

***OPENING HYMN:** "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past" (Ps 90)

V806

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Quiet your mind, still your restlessness. Come before God.

PEOPLE: Like a bird that lights on a branch, we come to the pause of God.

Leader: Warm your heart, stir up your spirit. Come before God.

PEOPLE: Like the flame that is dancing on a candle's wick, we come to the dance of God.

Leader: Open your hands meet the eyes of your neighbors. Come before God.

ALL: Like snowflakes falling in a winter night, beautiful alone, deep when gathered, we fall into the presence of God.**

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

Come Lord!

Do not smile and say you are already with us.

Millions do not know you, and to us who do, what is the difference?

What is the point of your presence if our lives do not alter?

Change our lives, shatter our complacency.

Make your word flesh of our flesh, blood of our blood
and our life's purpose.

Take away the quietness of a clear conscience.

Press us uncomfortably.

For only thus that other peace is made,
your peace.^{##} Amen

Dom Helder Camara

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:~unison

Gracious God, we confess that we have not been your servant people. We are not as loving, caring, sharing as we should be. We are weak in the cause of justice, slow to opportunities for kindness, quick to anger and hurting words. We put ourselves in the center of our world. We turn away from our neighbor's need. We do not thank you, nor pray as we should. Accept the burden of our sinful selves, heal our pain, and set us free. In the name of Christ Jesus we pray.** 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 SPIRIT OF THE SEASON OF GENEROSITY

Scott Morrow

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Psalm 1

p. 482

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.

In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 22:34-46

p. 1171

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

‘The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet”’?

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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

ANTHEM: *Rejoice in the Lord Always*

Traditional Round (with added percussion)

SERMON: “The Heart of the Matter:

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:** “Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”

V378

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: Fughetta on *Ein’ feste Burg*

Hans Fahrmann

*Those who are able, please stand.

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The flowers this morning are given by Jim and Joan Bennett in loving memory of Jim's mom, Jean, who would have celebrated her 92nd birthday on October 27th. Jean devoted her life to family, faith, service, and hospitality, passed judgement on no one and found goodness in everyone.

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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Carson Leyerzapf 10/26, Matthew DiVito 10/27, Betsey Reid 10/28.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: None

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	10/25	9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	WORSHIP OASIS (Zoom)
Monday	10/26	10:00 a.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Tuesday	10/27	5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	PAST'L RELATIONS (Zoom) BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
Wednesday	10/28	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN STAFF MEETING (Zoom) RE-OPENING (Zoom)
Thursday	10/29	7:00 p.m.	CHANCEL CHOIR (Zoom)
Friday	10/30	10:00 a.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Saturday	10/31		
Sunday	11/1	9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	WORSHIP FAITH FORMATION (Zoom) OASIS (Zoom)

*Small print indicates non-Church function

Bold print starts new day.

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.

Celebration of All Saints next Sunday

We will celebrate All Saints Sunday next Sunday, when we will read the names of those who have died since last year. Please email or call the Church Office with the names of church members, or members' family members, who have died since Oct. 1, 2019. This year, in addition, we will offer prayers for those who have died from the COVID19 virus. Please call or email names of relatives, friends, or neighbors who have died from the COVID19 virus during the pandemic.

Make your Church Pledge Online!

We are trying many new ways of reaching out to members and friends this year. In conjunction with the **Season of Generosity** this year, you have the opportunity to make your pledge of financial support for the church next year online, through the church website (www.northhavenucc.org). On the homepage of the website you will see a bright purple banner invitation "Make Your 2021 Pledge Today." Click on the purple banner, and the Generosity page will open. Here you will find some comments from church members reflecting on their giving to the church, and a Pledge Card form which you can fill out and submit from the web page. If you would like a copy as your confirmation, you can print the screen before you submit your pledge, or call the Church Office and Julie Schweickert will send it to you.

Evaluation of the Pastor ONLINE!

Here is yet another opportunity to respond online! The Evaluation of the Pastor is being conducted now, and the evaluation team from the Pastoral Relations Mission Team is seeking responses from as many members and friends as possible. Please take a few minutes and complete the Pastoral Evaluation online! Go to the church website (www.northhavenucc.org) and click on the green banner on the homepage "Annual Evaluation of the Pastor." This will open the Pastoral Evaluation page. Here you will find a brief explanation of the purpose of the evaluation and instructions. You are asked to answer 8 questions, and your specific thought and feelings and examples will be most helpful. **Please complete your evaluation by Nov. 3.** Thank you for helping to guide, affirm, and improve pastoral leadership at North Haven Congregational Church.

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.

6 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
 C (F C Am) F G C Am Em Am D G

1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
 2 un - der the shad - ow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived its frame,
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve - ning gone,

be thou our guard while trou - bles last, and our e - ter - nal home.
 G C (F) Dm G C (F) E C Dm (C Dm) G C

our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
 suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fence is sure.
 from ev - er - last - ing thou art God, to end - less years the same.
 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time like an ever-rolling stream
 soon bears us all away;
 we fly forgotten, as a dream
 dies at the opening day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
 our hope for years to come,
 be thou our guard while troubles last,
 and our eternal home.

Descant

4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

B \flat F7 B \flat E \flat B \flat C \flat m7 F7 B \flat

1 Spi - rit of God, de - scend up - on my heart,
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - cies,
 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King,
 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame,

G \flat m A D \flat m G7 F G \flat m/C C7 F

wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move,
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength and mind?
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame,

the bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed dove,

F E \flat F7 G \flat m F7 E \flat F7

stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - pening skies,
 I see your cross: there teach my heart to cling.
 the bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed dove,



Beloved, Love your Neighbor.

"Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have." - Margaret Mead

Woven throughout the entire Bible, there are stories that compel us over and over to Love our Neighbor. The Gospel of Matthew tells us that the greatest commandment of all is "Love God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." To this, Jesus added a second, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-38)

Founded in 1976, San Lucas United Church of Christ, located in the Humboldt Park community of Chicago, is a small church with a big heart. Representing a multi-lingual, multi-cultural and intergenerational community, the congregation embodies "Loving their Neighbor." Under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Marilyn Pagan-Banks, members and volunteers have created a committed team. Amid hunger, homelessness, violence, and economic challenges, exacerbated by gentrification, this team offers a presence of hope. San Lucas UCC's community meal is an excellent example of one of the offerings presented to the community. Every Tuesday, volunteers from Chicago neighborhoods and suburbs, serve over 100 hot meals to

to those in need. No one is turned away. Carmen Flores-Rance, lay leader and longtime member, stated, "We do Church here every day, we serve the people of the community here every day – not just on Sunday. That's what makes San Lucas such a special place." This humble, Humboldt Park church, boldly and fearlessly, lives into God's commandment to Love thy neighbor. Philanthropist Charlotte Lunsford Berry reminds us, "We won't always know whose lives we touched and made better for our having cared, because actions can sometimes have unforeseen ramifications. What's important is that you do care and you act." So, let us act so that "They'll know we are Christians by our love" as the hymn goes, and may we be known by our acts in love of neighbor.

As you reflect on the stewardship of resources and sharing provisions to create a just world for all, I invite you to consider how you Love your neighbor through your church community. Who is your neighbor? A single parent, refugee, or elder? Someone across the street or town, or in the pew next to you? Beloved, Love your neighbor.

WEEKLY GIVING IF THE PERCENTAGE IS

(Rounded to the nearest dollar)

Annual Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income	2%	4%	6%	8%	10%	15%
16,000	1,333	308	6.00	12.00	18.00	25.00	31.00	46.00
20,000	1,667	385	8.00	15.00	23.00	31.00	39.00	58.00
25,000	2,083	481	10.00	19.00	29.00	38.00	48.00	72.00
30,000	2,500	577	12.00	23.00	35.00	46.00	58.00	87.00
35,000	2,917	673	13.00	27.00	40.00	54.00	67.00	101
40,000	3,333	769	15.00	31.00	46.00	62.00	77.00	115
45,000	3,750	865	17.00	35.00	52.00	69.00	87.00	130
50,000	4,167	962	19.00	38.00	58.00	77.00	96.00	144
60,000	5,000	1,154	23.00	46.00	69.00	92.00	115	173
75,000	6,250	1,442	29.00	58.00	87.00	115	144	216
100,000	8,333	1,923	38.00	77.00	115	154	192	288
125,000	10,417	2,404	48.00	96.00	144	192	240	361

