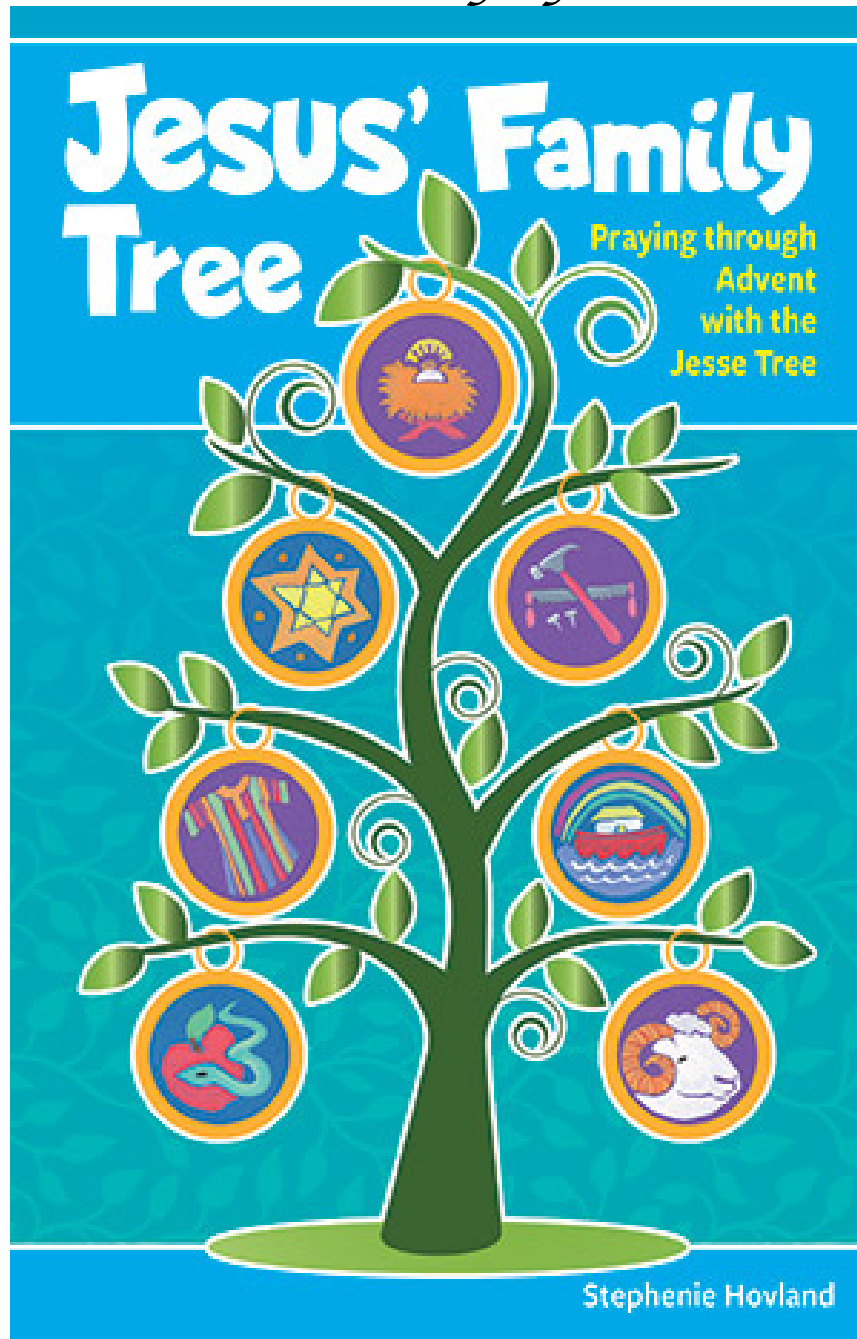


FOUNDED 1716

North Haven
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

First Sunday of Advent



North Haven, Connecticut
An Open & Affirming Congregation

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

Sunday, November 29, 2020

9:30 a.m.

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost - Proper

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: Prelude on *O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide*

Matthias Tscharn

***OPENING HYMN:** "All My Hope is Firmly Grounded"

V654

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: To stand watch – over a sick child or a rising loaf,

PEOPLE: at the gate of a factory, upon the ramparts of a walled city,

Leader: or on the top of a craggy mountain –

PEOPLE: to stand watch calls for alert senses and sensitivities.

Leader: Standing watch demands an awareness of surroundings, for even when it seems as though there is nothing out there to watch for, you must be ready for anything.

PEOPLE: Standing watch builds anticipation.

Leader: In this season we seek to watch with eagerness for the promised but always surprising arrival of Christ.

PEOPLE: God comes to be with us, ready or not.

ALL: May our worship this morning and in days ahead be times of looking forward with perceptive and receptive watchfulness.**

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

In this Advent...

Let us lift up light where there is darkness.

Let us bear hope where there is despair.

Let us build community where there is isolation.

Let us model abundance where there is scarcity

Let us be love where there is fear

Let us live in peace.## Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:~unison

Merciful God, always with us, always coming: we confess that we do not know how to prepare for Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of your Kingdom; we get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem, and find the Good News of a child born for us. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming.*** 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 LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

The Dean Family

Sung Response: "People Look East" V9

People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today:
Love the guest is on the way.

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 64:1-9

p. 683

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

“But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

ANTHEM: *Prepare the Way of the Lord*
Jeff Hutchins and Nicole Brewer

Community of Taizé
Jacques Berthier

SERMON: “Please, Come Visit Us!”

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:** “Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending”

V25

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: *March in E-flat*

Philip Kreckel

*Those who are able, please stand.

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The flowers this morning are given by Melissa and Carmen DeLuca.

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: Sharman Tait 11/30, Charles Woodruff 11/30, Doris Ferner 12/01, Gerard Adinolfi 12/05.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: Karen & David Linsky, Edward & Mary Ellen Collett 12/06.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	11/29	9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	WORSHIP – Online (First Sunday of Advent) OASIS (Zoom)
Monday	11/30	10:00 a.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Tuesday	12/1	12:00 p.m. 6:00 7:00	TOWN HOLIDAY FOOD PICK UP BIBLE STUDY (Zoom) MLB (Zoom)
Wednesday	12/2	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN STAFF MEETING (Zoom) RE-OPENING (Zoom)
Thursday	12/3	3:00 p.m. 7:00	Food Council Meeting (Zoom) CHANCEL CHOIR (Zoom)
Friday	12/4	10:00 a.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Saturday	12/5	8:00 a.m.	MENS FELLOWSHIP (Zoom)
Sunday	12/6	9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	WORSHIP – Online OASIS (Zoom)

*Small print indicates non-Church function

Bold print starts new day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.



New England "VIRTUAL" Fair has begun on line!

Please go to the website northhavenucc.org to place your orders.

Need help placing an order, call the office and Julie will be happy to help you!
Place and pay for you order on line, or check payable to NHCC Women's Fellowship!
Orders available for pick up Sunday Dec 13th, 12-2:00 p.m.



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 All my hope is firm - ly ground - ed in our great and
 2 Tell me, who can trust our na - ture, hu - man, weak, and
 3 But in ev - ery time and sea - son, out of love's a -
 4 Thank, O thank, our great Cre - a - tor, through God's on - ly

liv - ing Lord; who, when - ev - er I most need him, nev - er
 in - se - cure? Which of all the air - y cas - tles can the
 bun - dant store, God sus - tains the whole cre - a - tion, fount of
 Son this day; God a - lone, the heaven - ly pot - ter, made us

fails to keep his word. God I must whol - ly
 hur - ri - cane en - dure? Built on sand, naught can
 life for - ev - er - more. We who share earth and
 out of earth and clay. Quick to heed, strong in

trust, God the ev - er good and just.
 stand by our earth - ly wis - dom planned.
 air count on God's un - fail - ing care.
 deed, God shall all the peo - ple feed.

1 Lo, he comes with clouds de - scend - ing, see the Lamb for
 2 Ev - ery eye shall then be - hold you, robed in awe - some
 3 Now re - demp - tion, long ex - pec - ted see in sol - emn
 4 Yeat A - ment Let all a - dore you, high on your e -

sin - ners slaint Thou - sand, thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 maj - es - ty; all who jeered, and mocked, and sold you,
 pomp ap - pear; all the saints, by us re - ject - ed,
 ter - nal throne; crowns and em - pires fall be - fore you,

join to sing the glad re - frain: hal - le - lu - jah,
 pierced, and nailed you to the tree, deep - ly griev - ing,
 thrill the trum - pet sound to hear: hal - le - lu - jah,
 claim the king - dom for your own: O come quick - ly!

hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah!
 deep - ly griev - ing, deep - ly griev - ing,
 hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah!
 O come quick - ly! O come quick - ly!