

FOUNDED 1716
North Haven
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Second Sunday of Advent



North Haven, Connecticut
An Open & Affirming Congregation

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

Sunday, December 6, 2020

9:30 a.m.

**Second Sunday of Advent
The Sacrament of Communion**

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: Prelude on *Savior of the Nations, Come*

Anton Kniller

***OPENING HYMN:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

V1

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: A tiny jewel of light dances on the edge of the horizon:

PEOPLE: a solitary star before sunrise glimmers a promise of dawn at the end of the world's blight.

Leader: It is the light of the World, "Emmanuel" (God-with-us), the Promised One.

PEOPLE: Come to us, Emmanuel!

ALL: We have seen your light and gather here awaiting the day of your coming.**

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

Come Emmanuel, Come

Open our arms to the gift of the stranger

Come Emmanuel, Come

Open our ears to the cries and laughter of the stranger

Come Emmanuel, Come

Open our hearts to Your Presence that we may receive Your peace

Oh, precious and unexpected Guest.*** Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:~unison

God of the loving heart, we confess before you those places in our hearts where we have refused you entrance: people we have refused to love; habits we never got around to changing; good things we have left undone; and ways in which we hurt you, ourselves, and others. Come to us in the light of your Christ. Shine on those places we have hidden from you. Show us new ways to live. Sweep clean the rooms of our hearts, that Christ may find a home among us. Be known among us now and forever! Amen. ** ~ silence ~

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ALL: Thanks be to God

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Cathy Welch

Sung Response: "People Look East" V9

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,

one more seed is planted there:

give up your strength the seed to nourish,

that in course the flower may flourish.

People, look east and sing today:

Love the rose is on the way.

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 40:1-11

p. 656

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Mark 1:1-8

p. 1180

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,'"

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

SPECIAL MUSIC: *Soon and Very Soon*

Chancel Choir

Recorded at the 300th Anniversary Concert in 2016

Andrae Crouch

arr. Jack Schrader

MEDITATION: "God's Word Stands Forever"

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

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation and Consecration
The Lord's Prayer
Distribution
Prayer of Thanksgiving

GREETING OF PEACE

*CLOSING HYMN: "There's a Voice in the Wilderness"

V18

*THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *Recessional*

John Wiegand

*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 Doris Ferner in honor of our wonderful staff and dedicated deacons, who plan and bring us the livestreaming worship services every Sunday, with much appreciation and gratitude.

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: Robbie Juliano 12/07, James Studley 12/08, Jennifer Royka 12/10, Merrilee Gladkosky 12/11.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: Edward & Mary Ellen Collett 12/06, Sally & Anthony Pallatto 12/14.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	12/6	9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	WORSHIP – Online OASIS (Zoom)
Monday	12/7	10:00 a.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Tuesday	12/8	12:00 p.m. 5:30 7:00	BUILDING AND GROUNDS (Zoom) BIBLE STUDY (Zoom) MLB (Zoom)
Wednesday	12/9	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN STAFF MEETING (Zoom) RE-OPENING (Zoom)
Thursday	12/10	2:00 p.m. 7:00	Foley Baker - Organ Tuning (Sanctuary) CHANCEL CHOIR (Zoom)
Friday	12/11	10:00 a.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Saturday	12/12		
Sunday	12/13	9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 2:00 5:00	WORSHIP – Online HARVEST FAIR PICK-UP (CARROL HALL) FOOD DRIVE – SORTING 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.



The First Annual New England “VIRTUAL” Fair has closed. Please come to the church to pick up your order on Sunday Dec 13th, 12-2:00 p.m. Thank you to all who participated in this event.

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.

***OPENING HYMN: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"**

V1

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el,
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high,
 3 O come, O come, great God of might,
 4 O come, O Rod of Jes - se's stem,
 5 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come,

and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,
 or - ders all things might - i - ly,
 who to your tribes on Si - nai's height
 from ev - ery foe de - liv - er them
 and o - pen wide our heav - enly home,

that mourns in low - ly ex - ile here
 to us the path of know - ledge show,
 in an - cient times once gave the law
 that trust your might - y power to save,
 make safe the way that leads on high,

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 and teach us in her ways to go.
 in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.
 and close the path to mis - er - y.

Refrain G D Em Bm G Am Bm Em G Em Am Bm Em
 Re-joice! Re-joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

6 O come, O Dayspring, from on high,
 and cheer us by your drawing night;
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 all peoples in one heart and mind;
 O bid our sad divisions cease,
 and be for us the Prince of Peace.

Refrain

*CLOSING HYMN: "There's a Voice in the Wilderness"

V18

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of eight systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
 2 O Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee
 3 But the word of our God en - dur - eth, whose
 4 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a

call from the ways un - trod: pre - pare in the des - ert a
 up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
 arm is ev - er strong; God stands in the midst of
 call from the ways un - trod: pre - pare in the des - ert a

high - way, a high - way for our God! The
 peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the
 na - tions, and soon will right the wrong. God shall
 high - way, a high - way for our God! The

val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the lof - ty hills brought
 flowers of the field they per - ish, like grass our works de -
 feed the flock like a shep - herd, the lambs so gen - tly
 val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the lof - ty hills brought

low; make straight all the crook - ed pla - ces
 cay; the power and pomp of na - tions
 hold; to pas - tures of peace will lead them,
 low; make straight all the crook - ed pla - ces

where God, our God, may go
 shall pass, like a dream, a - way.
 and bring them a safe to fold.
 where God, our God, may go