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North Haven Congregational Church United Church of Christ



North Haven, Connecticut An Open & Affirming Congregation

NORTH HAVEN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, September 19, 2021

9:30 a.m.

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 20

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: Andante con moto

Alexandre Guilmant

*OPENING HYMN: "You Servants of God" V342

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: We have gathered to worship God.

PEOPLE: We have come seeking comfort, inspiration, community, and insight.

Leader: We have come to open ourselves to the power of God's presence in our midst.

ALL: We have come to offer up the seasons and the turnings in our lives, and

to ask God's help in our learning and our growing.**

*LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE ~unison

Father, Mother, God,

Thank you for your presence during the hard and mean days,

for then we have you to lean upon.

Thank you for your presence during the bright and sunny days,

for then we can share that which we have with those who have less.

For those who have no voice,

we ask you to speak.

For those who feel unworthy,

we ask you to pour your love out in waterfalls of tenderness.

For those who live in pain,

we ask you to bathe them in the river of your healing.

For those who are lonely,

we ask you to keep them company.

For those who are depressed,

we ask you to shower upon them the light of hope.

Dear Creator, You, the borderless sea of substance,

we ask you to give to all the world that which we need most—Peace.## Amen.

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)

Organ Amen

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: Psalm 1

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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: James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

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Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

GIFT OF MUSIC: Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet

Words drawing from Psalms 148 and 150 Music by Natalie Sleeth

Sung by members of the Chancel Choir

SERMON: "Choosing Your Way" Scott Morrow

PASTORAL CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS PASTORAL PRAYER

Organ Response

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 ~unison

May the peace of God in Jesus Christ be with you always!

*CLOSING HYMN: "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"

V560

*THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: Praelude in C Major

Johann Ludwig Krebs

- *Those who are able, please stand.
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The flowers are given by Jim & Joan Bennett in honor of Jim's parents, Al and Jean, who would have celebrated their 74th wedding anniversary today.

In Our Prayers This Week are: Heather Rowe-Purcell, Onna & Sam Gott, Ben & Cole Purcell, Heidi Welch, Mary Cestaro, Tim Peiffer, Marlene Bellonio, Stefan McKosky, Linda Shannon, Betsy Gumbart, and the family of David Bellonio.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Carol Lacobelli 09/21, Greg Brenner 09/22, Patience Benassi 09/23, Jennifer Coulston 09/23, Linda Simonson 09/23, Brooklyn Mastracchio 09/23, Lexie Cooper 09/23, Raj Rose 9/26.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The OASIS Youth Fellowship will go to The Adventure Park at the Discovery Museum, 4450 Park Ave., Bridgeport for low- and high-ropes course adventures today 12-5pm. Pack a lunch and water, wear closed-toe shoes, and invite a friend! There is no charge, although contributions are welcome!! Go have some fun!!

The Rev. Joe Perdue will be installed as Senior Pastor at First Congregational Church of Branford next Sunday, Sept. 26, at 2pm. A reception will follow. Those attending need to wear a mask. Please RSVP to **office@firstcongregationalbranford.org**.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

| Sunday | 9/19 | 9:30 a.m. | WORSHIP (In Person & Live Stream) |
|-----------|------|------------|---|
| | | 9:30 | CHURCH SCHOOL (In Person) |
| | | 12:00 p.m. | FAITH FORMATION MT (Zoom) |
| | | 12:00 | OASIS Adventure Park (Bridgeport) |
| Monday | 9/20 | 9:30 a.m. | Music Together (Lawn) |
| | | 6:00 p.m. | CT Record Club (CH) |
| Tuesday | 9/21 | 9:30 a.m. | Music Together (Lawn) |
| | | 4:30 p.m. | Music Together (Lawn) |
| | | 6:00 | BIBLE STUDY (Zoom) |
| Wednesday | 9/22 | | WINDOW DEADLINE |
| | | 9:30 a.m. | Music Together (Lawn) |
| | | 10:00 | FOOD PANTRY OPEN |
| | | 1:30 p.m. | STAFF MEETING (Zoom) |
| | | 5:00 | PASTORAL RELATIONS (Zoom) |
| Thursday | 9/23 | 9:30 a.m. | Music Together (Lawn) |
| | | 7:00 p.m. | CHANCEL CHOIR (Zoom) |
| Friday | 9/24 | 9:30 a.m. | Music Together (Lawn) |
| | | 10:00 | FOOD PANTRY OPEN |
| Saturday | 9/25 | 9:30 a.m. | Music Together (Lawn) |
| | | 10:30 | Music Together (Lawn) |
| Sunday | 9/26 | 9:30 a.m. | WORSHIP (In Person & Live Stream) |
| | | 9:30 | CHURCH SCHOOL (In Person) |
| | | 11:15 | Food Delivery (St. Elizabeth) |
| | | 11:30 | BAPTISM CASEY TWINS (Lawn) |
| | | 2:00 p.m. | Installation Rev. Joe Perdue (Branford) |
| | | 4:00 | OASIS & Tidepool (Spring Glen Church) |

*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

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.



