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North Haven
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



North Haven Congregational Church

North Haven, Connecticut
An Open & Affirming Congregation

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

Sunday, October 31, 2021

9:30 a.m.

**Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 26
Reformation Sunday – Bible Sunday**

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: Prelude on *Ein' feste Burg*

J. G. Walther

***OPENING HYMN:** "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

V262

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: There are many who have walked the path toward God before us, showing us the way with their lives.

PEOPLE: We come to give thanks for them.

Leader: As they were called, so are we called to live as Jesus did, answering the call of God, saying, "Here I am! Send me,"

PEOPLE: We come to ask for guidance and courage.

Leader: We are, each of us, like those who have gone before us, a strange mix of saint and sinner. God accepts us that way and fills us with the Spirit, who empowers us to act.

ALL: We come to worship the Holy God.**

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

Holy and loving God,	You are our foundation
You are our fortress	Our solid rock
Our defender	In whom our confidence rests.
Protector from the storm	You are Justice, Compassion, Peace, And Love
The one in whom we take refuge.	You are Everything.## Amen.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION:~unison

Eternal God, we gather as your people to worship you. By your Spirit break the bonds that hold our minds captive to the petty concerns of our lives that we may know the freedom of new possibilities. Quiet the din of our distracted spirits that we may hear your gentle voice calling us. Transform our very lives that we may go forth from this hour with deeper commitment to do your will, with a firm assurance of your presence.** We pray in the name of Jesus Christ.** 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.

GIFT OF MUSIC: *Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God*

Words & Music by Karen Lafferty

Presented by members of the Children's Choir

Seek Ye first the kingdom of God
 And its righteousness;
 And all these things shall be added unto you.
 Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
 Seek, and you shall find.
 Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.
 Hallelu, Hallelujah

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Ruth 1:1-18

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In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me." Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said,

"Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you!
 Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge;
 your people shall be my people, and your God my God.

Where you die, I will die—there will I be buried.
May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.
HERE ENDS THE READING. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Mark 12:28-34

Page 1194

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself,’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.”

After that no one dared to ask him any question.

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

SERMON: “Security”

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:** “We Are Pilgrims”

V595

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: Fughetta on *Ein’ feste Burg*

J. C. Kittel

* Those who are able, please stand.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Evaluations:

Evaluations are an important part of supporting our staff. Please fill out an annual Review for each of the NHCC Staff and Minister on our website by November 29th.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	10/31	9:30 a.m. 9:30 4:00 p.m.	WORSHIP – BIBLE SUNDAY (In Person & Live Stream) CHURCH SCHOOL (In Person) OASIS & Tidepool (Spring Glen Church)
Monday	11/1	9:30 a.m.	Music Together (Lawn)
Tuesday	11/2	9:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m. 6:00	Music Together (Lawn) Music Together (Lawn) BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
Wednesday	11/3	9:30 a.m. 10:00 1:30 p.m.	Music Together (Lawn/CH) FOOD PANTRY OPEN STAFF MEETING (Library)
Thursday	11/4	9:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00	Music Together (Lawn) Food Drive Council (Zoom) Mothers of Twins (CH) CHANCEL CHOIR (Zoom)
Friday	11/5	9:30 a.m. 10:00 11:00	Music Together (Lawn) FOOD PANTRY OPEN FUNERAL
Saturday	11/6	8:00 a.m. 9:30 10:30	MENS FELLOWSHIP (Zoom) Music Together (Lawn) Music Together (Lawn)
Sunday	11/7	9:30 a.m. 9:30 4:00 p.m.	DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS WORSHIP (In Person & Live Stream) CHURCH SCHOOL (In Person) OASIS & Tidepool (Spring Glen Church)

*Small print indicates non-Church function

Bold print starts new day.

Descant

4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
 3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -
 4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -

them, a - bid - eth, the Spir - it and the gifts are ours

fail - ing, our help - er sure a - mid the flood of
 los - ing, were not the right man on our side, the
 do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed the
 bid - eth, the Spir - it and the gifts are ours through

through Christ, who with us sid - eth, let goods and kin - dred go,

mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing: for still our an - cient foe doth
 man of God's own choos - ing: dost ask who that may be? Christ
 truth to tri - umph through us: the prince of dark - ness grim, we
 Christ, who with us sid - eth: let goods and kin - dred go, this

mor - tal life al - so, the bod - y they may kill:

seek to work us woe, with power and mal - ice great, and
 Je - sus, it is he, Lord Sab - a - oth his name, from
 trem - ble not for him, his rage we can en - dure, for
 mor - tal life al - so, the bod - y they may kill: God's

God's truth a-bid-eth still, God's king-dom is for - ev - er.

armed with cru - el hate, on earth he has no e - qual.
 age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
 lo! his doom is sure, one lit - tle word shall fell him.
 truth a - bid - eth still, God's king-dom is for ev - er.

***CLOSING HYMN: "We Are Pilgrims"**

V595

E_b A_b E_b sus4 E_b C_m C_m7

1 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, fel - low trav - ellers
 2 Sis - ter, let me be your ser - vant, let me be as
 3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the night - time
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing, when you laugh I'll

F_m7 B_b A_b E_b A_b F_m E_b

on the road; we are here to help each oth - er
 Christ to you; pray that I may have the grace to
 of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
 laugh with you; I will share your joy and sor - row,

F_m7 B_b B_b7 E_b

walk the mile and bear the load.
 let you be my ser - vant too.
 speak the peace you long to hear.
 till we've seen this jour - ney through.

5 When we sing to God in heaven,
 we shall find such harmony,
 born of all we've known together
 of Christ's love and agony.

6 Brother, let me be your servant,
 let me be as Christ to you;
 pray that I may have the grace to
 let you be my servant too.

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.

The flowers are given by Sue and John Tibor in loving memory of Sue's mom, Marie DeSpelder Banta, who began her new life in heaven 22 years ago. She instilled a love of God, church and hymn singing for which we are truly grateful.

In Our Prayers This Week are: Heather Rowe-Purcell, Linda Shannon, and Betsy Gumbart.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Dan Lafleur 11/01, Laura Alden 11/02, Cheryl Bogert 11/02, Nicole Mecca 11/03, Onna Gott 11/04, Samuel Gott 11/04, Eliza Stewart 11/05, Jason Petrucci 11/05.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: Daniel & Paige Mickolyzck 11/01.