

FOUNDED 1716
North Haven
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Hope



North Haven, Connecticut
An Open & Affirming Congregation

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

Sunday, November 28, 2021

9:30 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *Invocation for Advent*

Camil van Hulse

***OPENING HYMN:** "Prepare the Way"

V882

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Hear the invitation of the prophet Isaiah:
Come, let us go up to God's holy mountain,

PEOPLE: that we may learn to walk in all God's ways,

Leader: for God will judge between the nations,
And shall decide for many peoples,

**PEOPLE: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks.**

Leader: Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

PEOPLE: neither shall they learn war any more.

ALL: Let us come before God to learn the ways of peace.**

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

God of hope, who brought love into this world,
be the love that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought peace into this world,
be the peace that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought joy into this world,
be the joy that dwells between us.

God of hope, the rock we stand upon,
be the center, the focus of our lives
always, and particularly this Advent time.### Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:~unison

We confess, O God, that we do not take seriously your coming into our lives. We do not believe that salvation is near; we do not act uprightly, loving you, our neighbors, or ourselves; now do we bend our swords and spears. Forgive us, we pray, that we might once again walk in your light, choosing for the world of our Christ.** Amen.

~ silence ~

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ALL: Thanks be to God

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 LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Scripture: Isaiah 40:3-5 p 656

Gabriella DeLuca and Jennifer Febriorello

A voice cries: "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. And the glory of the spoken, LORD shall" be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Lighting the Candle of **Hope**

Prayer-*unison*

Thank you, Jesus, for coming to earth, just like the prophets said, and for your promise to come again. Thank you, Jesus, for being our light so we know how to live. Amen

Sung Response: "Hope Is a Star"

V7

Hope is a star- that shines in the night,

Leading us on till the morning is bright.

When God is a child there's joy in our song.

The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,

And none shall be afraid.

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Psalm 25:1-10

Page 495

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your
steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his
covenant and his decrees.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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

GIFT OF MUSIC: *Prepare the Way of the Lord*
Sung by Jeff Hutchins and Nicole Brewer

Community of Taizé
Jacques Berthier
arr. Hutchins

SERMON: “Watch and Pray”

Scott Morrow

PASTORAL CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Organ Response

THE OFFERTORY

*Doxology

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.

Tune: Old Hundredth

*Prayer of Dedication

GREETING OF PEACE ~unison

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

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

V25

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: Prelude on *Wachet auf*

Heinrich Schmidt

*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.

Adapted from Faith and Worship;

http://www.faithandworship.com/prayers_Advent.html; retrieved 12/16/18

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-719615.

The flowers are given in Loving Memory of Raymond Lavanway who passed away 3 years ago today. Flowers are given by the DeLuca and Lynch families.

In Our Prayers This Week are: Linda Shannon, Betsey Gumbart, and Martha Swarney.

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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: Cindy & Mark Luedee 11/28.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Angel Tree: We have struggled with how to carry out the Angel Project this year. We want to supply gifts for a specific child, unfortunately we have determined that this would cause logistical complications due to COVID restraints. Jesus taught us that all peoples are deserving. We therefore want to continue in a less satisfying way with the use of gift cards for the children.

Buy a gift card or cards in the amount of \$25 at Target or Walmart and send them to or leave them at the church. Alternatively, you may send a check to the church in any amount you want to give and we will buy gift cards. Please identify on the check it is for the angel project. Please have these to the church by SUNDAY DECEMBER 5th.

We prayerfully look to Easter when hopefully will provide Easter baskets for the children.

Wishing one and all a blessed Thanksgiving. Kathy Harple

Women's Fellowship Virtual Fair is coming soon—November 29th – December 8th! Items will be on the church website, with pictures and prices. Included this year are hand-made items, Christmas decorations, nearly new treasures and, of course, our fabulous assortment of baked goods—cakes, pies, breads, and cookies! Orders should be placed as soon as possible, since quantities are limited. Orders for baked goods will be taken until December 4th! Payment may be made online or by check payable to Women's Fellowship. No refunds! Pick up date is December 12th from 11:30 to 1:30. Please wear a mask! Baker's are needed! Would you consider baking a batch or two of your favorite cookies? Cookies are a big seller at the fair! If you would like to bake some cookies, please let Cheryl Bogert know (ca.bogert48@gmail.com or 203-208-4732). Thank you for supporting Women's Fellowship.



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 Christ brings God's rule, O Zi - on, he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on, your Sav - iour's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
And tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.



O blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.



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 Ye! A - ment Let all a - dore you, high on your e -

sin - ners slant 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!

God ap - pears on earth to reign.
 shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
 See the day of God ap - pear!
 Ev - er - last - ing Christ, come down.

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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	11/28	9:30 a.m. 9:30 4:00 p.m.	WORSHIP (In Person & Live Stream) CHURCH SCHOOL (In Person) OASIS & Tidepool (Spring Glen Church)
Monday	11/29		
Tuesday	11/30	6:00 p.m.	BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
Wednesday	12/1	10:00 a.m. 1:30pm 5:30	FOOD PANTRY OPEN STAFF MEETING (Zoom) Girl Scout (CH)
Thursday	12/2	6:30 p.m. 7:00	Mothers of Twins (CH) CHANCEL CHOIR (Zoom)
Friday	12/3	10:00 a.m. 5:30pm	FOOD PANTRY OPEN Girl Scout (CH)
Saturday	12/4	8:00 a.m.	MENS FELLOWSHIP (Zoom)
Sunday	12/5	9:30 a.m. 9:30 3:00 p.m. 4:00	WORSHIP (In Person & Live Stream) CHURCH SCHOOL (In Person) OASIS & Tidepool (Spring Glen Church) ADVENT NIGHT (CH)

*Small print indicates non-Church function

Bold print starts new day.