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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**

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

7:00pm

Ash Wednesday

**GREETING**

**PRELUDE:** Prelude on *Herzliebster Jesu*

Johann Oley

**OPENING HYMN:** "Be Thou My Vision"

V642

**THE CALL TO WORSHIP:** (from Joel 2:1, 12-17)

Leader: Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people.

**PEOPLE: We come in true repentance, young and old, male and female, joyful and sorrow-filled.**

Leader: Return to God with all your hearts.

**PEOPLE: We turn to God, repenting the wrong we have done and the good we have left undone.**

Leader: Rend your hearts and not your garments.

**ALL: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.\*\***

**(silence)**

**THE CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER:**~*unison*

Creating God, still Center of the world you have made,  
we come to you in this season of turning and returning.

We do not know how to seek you with our whole hearts, but we know you are our  
source and our destiny.

In the midst of life, we turn toward you.

We thank you that you receive even the broken heart,  
the troubled conscience, the conflicted spirit.

Seeking you in secret, may we honor you in public,  
through Jesus Christ, our path homeward to you.## Amen.

**Gift of Music:** *Where Your Treasure Is*

Music by Marty Haugen (b. 1950)

Text : Luke 12:22-34; Marty Haugen

Pre-recorded by members of the Chancel Choir, Acappella

Refrain: Where your treasure is, there your heart shall be.

All that you possess will never set you free.

Seek the things that last; come and learn from me.

Where your treasure is, your heart shall be

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise

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

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and the LORD will say, Here I am.

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

**TIME FOR REFLECTION****MEDITATION****TIME FOR REFLECTION**

**HYMN:** "Dust and Ashes Touch our Face"

**V105****THE BLESSING AND RECEIVING OF ASHES**

God our Creator,  
You have formed us out of the dust of the earth.  
May these ashes be to us  
a sign of our mortality and penitence,  
so that we may remember  
that only by your gracious gift  
are we given everlasting life,  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*~silence*

Leader: Merciful and generous God, we come before you, conscious of our sins. We are ashamed and sorry for the wrong we have done and the good we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves; we have not even loved ourselves very well.

People: **God of mercy, forgive us.**

Leader: For the times when we are too rushed to care, when we are too tired to bother, when we don't really listen, when we act from motives other than love,

People: **God of mercy, forgive us.**

Leader: For our incapacity to feel the sufferings of others, and our tendency to live comfortably with injustice,

People: **God of mercy, forgive us.**

Leader: For our failings in community, our lack of understanding,

People: **God of mercy, forgive us.**

Leader: For our lack of forgiveness, openness, sensitivity,

People: **God of mercy, forgive us.**

Leader: For the self-righteousness that denies guilt, and the self-interest that strangles compassion,

People: **God of mercy, forgive us.**

Leader: Now, merciful God, we come to you in silence: you already know the wrong that weights us down, the guilt we cannot shake. We ask you to take them from us now and set us free to begin a new life.

People: **God of mercy, forgive us.**

ALL: **For everything in us that may hide your light,  
Holy One, Light of life, God of mercy, forgive us. ##**

*~silence*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen. \*\***

## \*THE BENEDICTION

*Please depart in silence.*

\*Those who are able, please stand.

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1 Be thou my vi - sion, O joy of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, my calm in all strife;  
 ♦ 3 Be thou my bat - tle shield, sword for the fight;  
 4 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain emp - ty praise,  
 5 Great God of heav - en, af - ter vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me save that thou art,  
 I ev - er with thee, and thou in my life;  
 ♦ be thou my dig - ni - ty, thou my de - light,  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav - en's sun!

thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
 thou lov - ing par - ent, thy child may I be,  
 ♦ thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tower;  
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing thy pres - ence my light.  
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.  
 ♦ raise thou me heav - en - ward, O power of my power.  
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vis - ion, O rul - er of all.



Refrain

Take us by the hand and lead us, lead us through the

de - sert sands, bring us liv - ing wa - ter,

Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

## 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  
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### **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.