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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, March 27, 2022

9:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *Fantasia*

Johann Pachelbel

***OPENING HYMN:** "The Church's One Foundation"

V331

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: God invites us to journey in the way of faithfulness,

PEOPLE: to walk the Lenten Road with Christ.

Leader: We journey with confidence, for Christ is with us.

ALL: Thanks be to God, for God's steadfast love.**

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

O mighty and righteous God,

You call us to loose the bonds of injustice,

To let the oppressed go free,

To break every yoke.

Lead us to this transformation, God of life.

Lead us to peace.## Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:~unison

God, we do not trust in a new creation for ourselves or for others.

We do not really believe in recovery from addictions.

We are awkward with gender transition.

We refuse new romance after the death of someone long loved.

We deny the possibility of joy and usefulness after the loss of sight, hearing, or mobility or in the path of dementia.

We treat family members as if they, of all human beings, cannot change.

Forgive us and create in us a spirit so new that all the old intolerances pass away.***

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 FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Page 1323

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

***HYMN:** "There's A Wideness In God's Mercy"

P101

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Page 1222

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable:

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

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

GIFT OF MUSIC: *A Responsorial Psalm*

Psalm 32, V759

Be glad in God you righteous. Rejoice, O saints, rejoice.

Harmonization by George Ratcliffe Woodward

Chanted by Jeff Hutchins, Response from full congregation

SERMON: “The Embassy of Heaven”

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:** “Give to the Winds Your Fears”

V636

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: Fugue in C Minor

Pachelbel

*Those who are able, please stand.

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The flowers are given by Cathy Welch, to the glory of God and in memory of beloved husband Ken, whose birthday was the 29th.

Greeters today are Susan Guckert and Mary Johnston. **Deacon** is Jim Bennett. **At Home Deacon** is Carol Amico.

WE HAVE COFFEE HOUR TODAY! Hosted by John and Sue Tibor.

In Our Prayers This Week are: Linda Shannon, Marcia Foulds, Marlene Bellonio, Lorraine Burdge, Shirley Ryan, Joyce Bellonio, Ellen Robert and Treffle Robert.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Sheree Alexander 03/27, Mark Bessette 03/29, Charlotte Shea 03/31, Janelly Ane Santiago 03/31, Anthony Solecki 04/03.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: Peter & Cheryl Hall 3/27, Bernie & Elfie Hummel 03/28, Robbie & Bruno Juliano 03/29.

Announcements

A Memorial Service for Eleanor Norback will be held in the Sanctuary on Saturday, April 2nd at 11 a.m. The congregation is encouraged to attend, and you are invited to wear purple! A reception will follow in Carroll Hall.

We will receive the **One Great Hour of Sharing** Special Mission Offering this morning. This all-church Special Mission Offering in the United Church of Christ touches the lives of many in communities throughout the world that have been struck by disaster or wracked by violence and COVID. Your gifts will provide assistance with food, water, shelter, medicines, education, and opportunities for sustainable development. **Please give generously.**

The United Church of Christ has issued an **Emergency Appeal for Aid to Ukraine**. The UCC, through Global Ministries, will collaborate with **ACT Alliance** and the **Reformed Church of Hungary** to bring aid to Ukraine. **Hungarian Reformed Church Aid** has been offering humanitarian assistance to refugees who are leaving Ukraine, and elderly and other vulnerable communities who have not been able to leave, including immigrants and migrant groups who are experiencing difficulties crossing into other European countries. **You can give to the Emergency Appeal for Aid to Ukraine through the Church website or by mailing a check made out to NHCC (marked Aid for Ukraine) to the Church.**

Church Fundraiser

Would you like to donate an item for a church fundraiser? We hope to hold our 3rd annual on-line auction if you, our church members, have items to donate for such a sale. This on-line auction would be held without buyers spending time in our building. And there would be minimal effort on our part and we already have volunteers. The items put up for auction would be photographed and cataloged by an auction manager and posted on-line for competitive bidding for a week, and winning buyers would be given a specific time frame to pick up their items at the church. The auction manager's buyers are from across Connecticut as well as New York and Massachusetts. The auction manager would coordinate and manage the buyer's pick up of items.

Where do you fit in? If you have an item or two or three that you feel would do well in an on-line auction, let us know what you would donate by texting a photo to 203-605-8568, or by e-mailing payemart@juno.com or by calling 203-605-8568. Feel free to call for any questions or clarification needed. **Based on the responses we receive, we would decide whether we would be able to move forward with the on-line auction.**

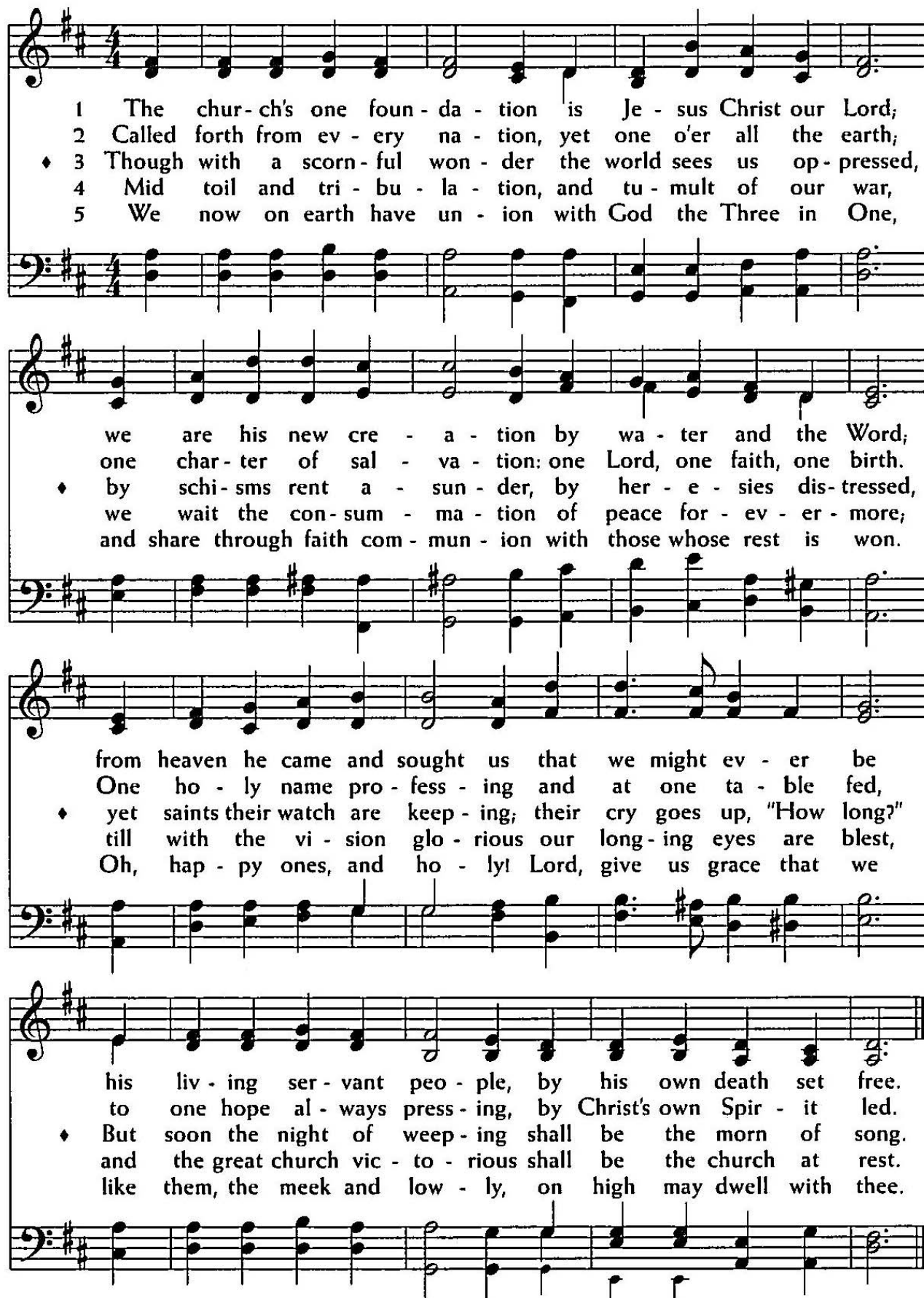
If we do, we would provide a time frame when you could bring your item to the church. The following items in good condition do well in an on-line auction: tools, working power tools, jewelry, watches, antique clocks, outside patio furniture, lawn decorations, working lawn mower, home decor, crystal, china sets, 78s with colorful covers, music albums, particularly The Beatles, "mid-century modern" items, old corning ware with designs, dish sets, bar ware, fancy mirror, china tea cups and saucers, unique and funky items, kayaks, old signs, old comic books, antique toys, games in original boxes that are complete and in good condition, unused new kitchen equipment gifts you may have received, Kitchen Aid mixer, anything name brand, Hummel, Lladro, Dooney&Bourke, Coach, Tiffany, Waterford, Limoge, small furniture items, occasional tables, small bureau or bookcase, chairs, art glass items, sterling items, gold items, bicycle, kayaks, high quality rugs, Karastan, fishing poles, interesting bookends or door stops, foreign currency, old U.S. coins, leather coat in good condition, fur coat, even if needing repair. If you have one of these items you could donate, please let us know. Items we would NOT be interested in: large furniture items, plastic ware, trinkets, clear drinking glasses, books, clothing, mugs. The items that have done the best in the last two years were Karastan rugs, Lift Chair, and fur coats, Lenox china, a piano, oil painting, Orvis rods, Beatles albums. Last year we raised almost \$2,500 for the church, thanks to all those who donated. Any questions, please contact a member of the B Team. The B Team: Patience Benassi, Martin Benassi, Priscilla Bradford, Marth Butterworth

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	3/27	9:30 a.m. 10:30 4:00 p.m.	WORSHIP (In-Person & Live Stream) Church School Pre-K-Grade 7 (In-Person) FAITH FORMATION MT (Library) OASIS Bowling (TBD)
Monday	3/28	6:30 p.m.	New Haven Camera Club (CH)
Tuesday	3/29	9:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 6:00	Music Together (CH) PLP (Library) BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
Wednesday	3/30	9:30 a.m. 10:00 1:30 p.m. 5:30	WINDOW MAILING Music Together (CH) FOOD PANTRY OPEN STAFF MEETING (Zoom) Girl Scout Troop 60071 (CH)
Thursday	3/31	5:00 p.m. 7:00	Girl Scout Troop (CH) CHANCEL CHOIR (In-Person)
Friday	4/1	9:30 a.m. 10:00 6:00 p.m.	Music Together (CH) FOOD PANTRY OPEN Girl Scout Troop (CH)
Saturday	4/2	7:30 a.m. 10:30 12:00 p.m.	MENS FELLOWSHIP (CH) Memorial Service – Eleanor Norback Reception – Eleanor Norback (CH)
Sunday	4/3	9:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m.	WORSHIP (In-Person & Live Stream) Church School Pre-K-Grade 7 (In-Person) OASIS (TBD)

*Small print indicates non-Church function

Bold print starts new day.




1 The chur- ch's one foun- da - tion is Je - sus Christ our Lord;
 2 Called forth from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth;
 ♦ 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der the world sees us op - pressed,
 4 Mid toil and tri - bu - la - tion, and tu - mult of our war,
 5 We now on earth have un - ion with God the Three in One,



we are his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the Word,
 one char - ter of sal - va - tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
 ♦ by schi - sms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 we wait the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and share through faith com - mun - ion with those whose rest is won.

from heaven he came and sought us that we might ev - er be
 One ho - ly name pro - fess - ing and at one ta - ble fed,
 ♦ yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up, "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious our long - ing eyes are blest,
 Oh, hap - py ones, and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we



his liv - ing ser - vant peo - ple, by his own death set free.
 to one hope al - ways press - ing, by Christ's own Spir - it led.
 ♦ But soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee.





1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, Like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 For the love of God is broad-er Than the meas-ure of man's mind;


There's a kind-ness in his jus-tice, Which is more than lib-er-ty.
And the heart of the E-ter-nal Is most won-der-ful-ly kind.

There is no place where earth's sor-rows Are more felt than up in heaven;
If our love were but more sim-ple, We should take him at his word;

There is no place where earth's fail-ings Have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
And our lives would be all sun-shine In the sweet-ness of our Lord. A-men.



Refrain

Memmington ms., 17th century
Harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward 1904



Blessed are those whose offences are forgiven,
 whose sin has been put away.

**Blessed are those to whom God imputes no guilt,
 and in whose spirit there is no deceit. R**

When I kept silence, my body wasted away,
 while I groaned all the day long.

**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night,
 my strength dried up as in a summer drought.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
 my guilt I did not hide.

**I said: "I will confess my sins to God";
 and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

Therefore let all the faithful pray to you in time of trouble,
 when great floodwater rises,
 it shall not come near them.

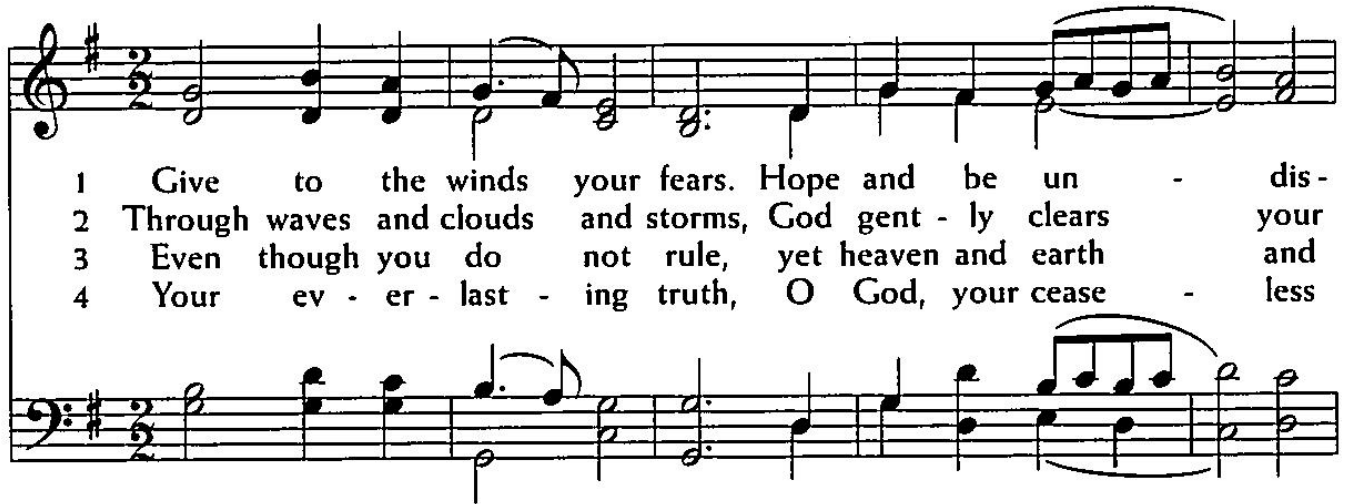
You are a hiding place for me,
 you will preserve me from trouble;
 you will surround me with shouts of deliverance. R

I will teach you,
 and guide you in the way you should go.

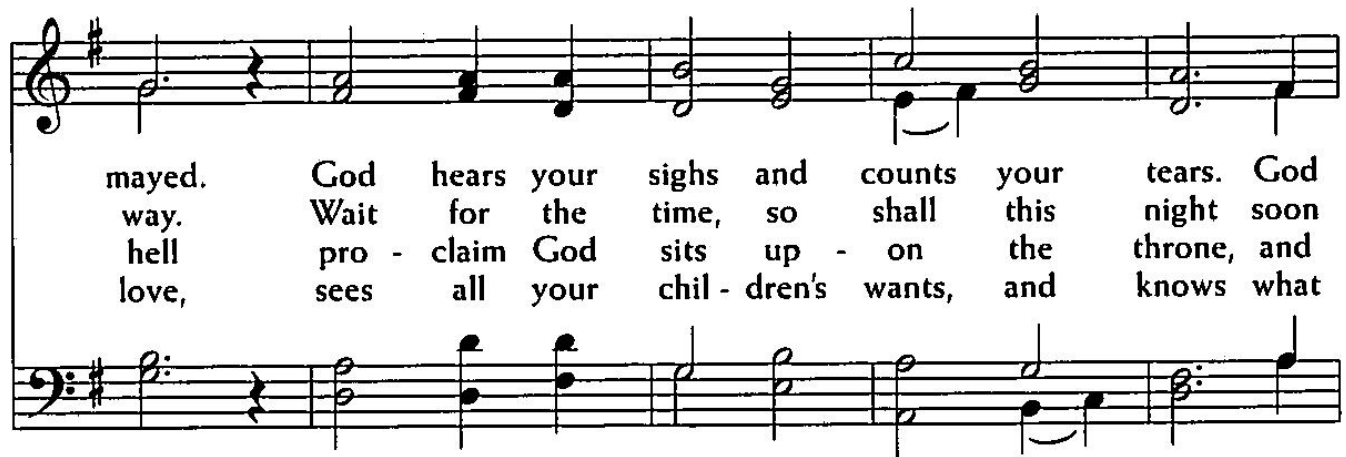
I will keep you under my eye and instruct you.

Be not like a horse or mule, without understanding,
 whose course must be checked with bit and bridle.

Many pains are in store for the wicked,
 but whoever trusts in God,
 is surrounded by steadfast love. R



1 Give to the winds your fears. Hope and be un - dis -
 2 Through waves and clouds and storms, God gent - ly clears your
 3 Even though you do not rule, yet heaven and earth and
 4 Your ev - er - last - ing truth, O God, your cease - less



mayed. God hears your sighs and counts your tears. God
 way. Wait for the time, so shall this night soon
 hell pro - claim God sits up - on the throne, and
 love, sees all your chil - dren's wants, and knows what



shall lift up your head, God shall lift up your head.
 end in joy - ous day, soon end in joy - ous day.
 rules o'er all things well, and rules o'er all things well.
 best for each will prove, what best for each will prove.

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.