

FOUNDED 1716
North Haven
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



North Haven, Connecticut
An Open & Affirming Congregation

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

Sunday, January 1, 2023

9:30 a.m.

**First Sunday after Christmas
New Year's Day
The Sacrament of Communion**

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: Meditation on "How Great Thou Art" arr. John Carter

***OPENING HYMN:** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" V333

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

PEOPLE: We understand God as creative voice in all the universe.

Leader: Christ is life, a life-light that could not be overcome.

PEOPLE: The impossible is possible – evil shall not overwhelm good.

Leader: The human being who was preexistent voice, true shining, was rejected by the world and ill-received by his neighbors.

ALL: The only-begotten God who is the prophet of Nazareth, gives us power to become children of God.**

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

In this new year, O God, at this time of beginnings, we ask your blessing on the congregation of the North Haven Congregational Church and on the people of our community.

We pray for patience and courage as we seek a new hope and continue to walk the path of justice and peace

Make us a people of compassion and welcome.

Fill our hearts with song and our house with joy as we journey together.## Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:~unison

Jesus Christ, God with us, you came that we might have life and have it more abundantly. We have not always lived up to your expectations for us. We confess that too often we are dry in spirit; fill us with your grace. We are often wrapped up in ourselves; open us to others. We are sometimes slow to learn; teach us of your ever-expanding truth.

We waste ourselves in things that do not satisfy; whet our hunger and thirst for justice. We are too soon scattered like grains of the field; gather us into a single loaf. We are frequently distracted of mind. Direct us to what is most important; your love for us, your will for our lives, and your sustaining presence in every circumstance.** Amen.

~ *silence* ~

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ALL: Thanks be to God

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 P. 607

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born and a time to die;
a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill and a time to heal;
a time to break down and a time to build up;
a time to weep and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek and a time to lose;
a time to keep and a time to throw away;
a time to tear and a time to sew;
a time to keep silent and a time to speak;
a time to love and a time to hate;
a time for war and a time for peace.

What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

***HYMN: "All Beautiful the March of Days"**

V530

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 25:31-46 P. 1174

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life.”

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

GIFT OF MUSIC: *This Is a Day of New Beginnings*

Text by Brian Wren

Gail DeBoer, organ

Jeff Hutchins, vocals

MEDITATION: “Letting Go, and Reaching Forward” Scott Morrow

PASTORAL CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Choral Response

THE OFFERTORY: There's a Song in the Air Wilbur Held

*Doxology Tune: Lasst Uns Erfreuen

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

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Hymn of Preparation: "As We Gather at Your Table" V457

Invitation and Consecration

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Distribution

Prayer of Thanksgiving

GREETING OF PEACE ~unison

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

***CLOSING HYMN:** "In the Bulb There Is a Flower" V703

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: Song For A New Year Gilbert M. Martin

*Those who are able, please stand.

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Deacon and Scripture Reader is Cathy Welch.

Guest Organist is Gail DeBoer.

Poinsettias decorate the sanctuary in memory of family and friends of NHCC.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Evan Schweickert 01/01, Genoveive Doyon 01/01, Lily Corcoran 01/02, Kimberly Noel 01/05, Carl Flodquist 01/06, Bradley Schweickert 01/07.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED Monday January 2nd. If you should have an urgent pastoral need, please leave a message at the church in the “Pastoral Emergency” voice-mail box which is checked regularly each day.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	1/1	9:30 a.m.	NEW YEARS DAY WORSHIP– (In-Person & Live Stream)
Monday	1/2	9:30 a.m.	OFFICE CLOSED AA (K)
Tuesday	1/3	9:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 3:30	Al-Anon (K) Danish Sisterhood (K) United Girls Choir (CH, DBL, Sanct)
Wednesday	1/4	9:30 a.m.	CLEANING (Sang)
Thursday	1/5	7:00 p.m.	CHANCEL CHOIR
Friday	1/6	10:00 a.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Saturday	1/7	7:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.	MENS FELLOWSHIP (CH) Music Together Teachers Workshop (Dbl)
Sunday	1/8	9:30 a.m. 10:45 12:00 p.m.	WORSHIP– (In-Person & Live Stream) CONFIRMATION OASIS:Good Vibes only (SGC)

*Small print indicates non-Church function
Bold print starts new day.

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.

Church 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

Julie Schweickert, Office Manager

Todd Swarney, Sexton

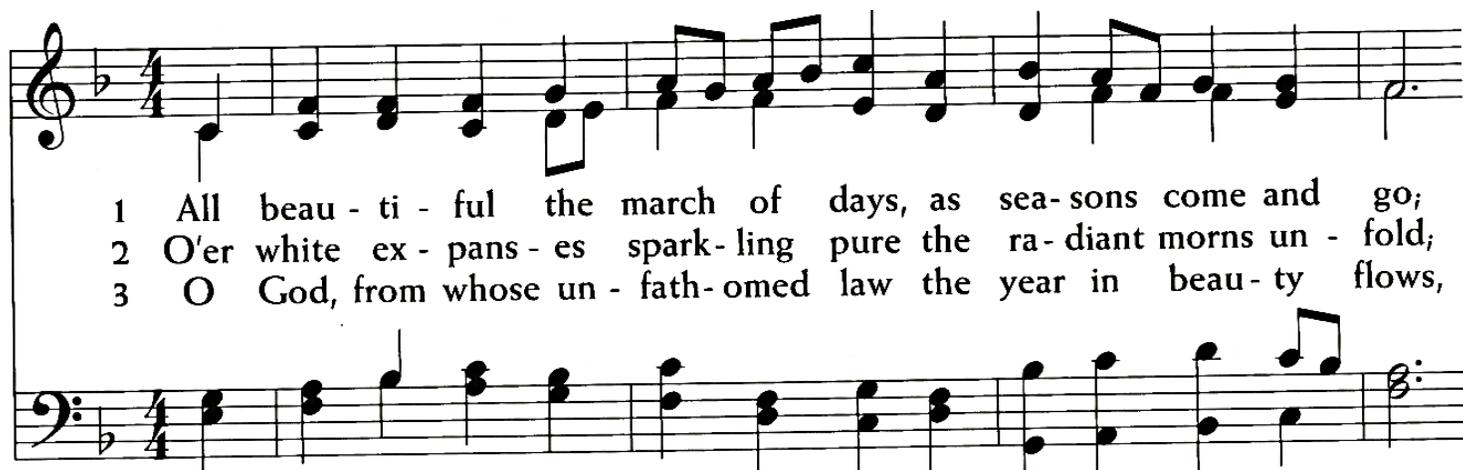
1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, joy of heaven to
 2 Come, al - might - ty to de - li - ver; let us all thy
 3 Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 grace re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

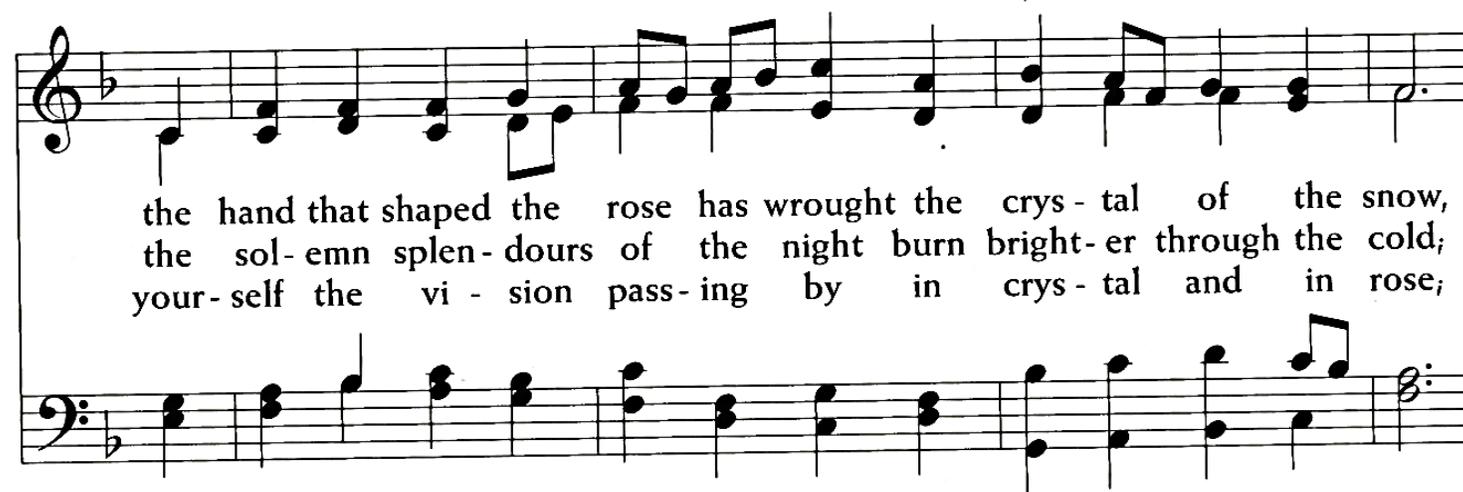
faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com -
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways
 ly re - stored in thee, changed from glo - ry in - to

pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it
 bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and
 glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place, till we

us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 praise thee, with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.



1 All beau - ti - ful the march of days, as sea - sons come and go;
 2 O'er white ex - pans - es spark - ling pure the ra - diant morns un - fold;
 3 O God, from whose un - fath - omed law the year in beau - ty flows,



the hand that shaped the rose has wrought the crys - tal of the snow,
 the sol - emn splen - dours of the night burn bright - er through the cold;
 your - self the vi - sion pass - ing by in crys - tal and in rose;



has sent the sil - very frost of heaven, the flow - ing wa - ters sealed,
 life mounts in ev - ery throb - bing vein, love deep - ens round the hearth,
 day un - to day de - clare thro' speech, and night to night pro - claim



and laid a si - lent love - li - ness on hill and wood and field.
 and clear - er sounds the an - gel hymn, good will to all on earth.
 in ev - er - chang - ing words of light the won - der of your name.

Hymn of Preparation: "As We Gather at Your Table"

V457

F Gm7 F Dm Bb C

1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we list - en
 2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra -
 3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to

Bb F Gm7 F Dm

to your word, help us know, O God, your pres - ence;
 ment of life; send us forth to love and serve you,
 share that feast where tri - umph - ant Love will wel - come

Dm Bb C7 Bb F C

let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nour - ish us with sa - cred
 bring - ing peace where there is strife. Give us, Christ, your great com -
 those who had been last and least. There no more will en - vy

Dm Am F Bb C Dm

sto - ry till we claim it as our own; teach us through this
 pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave; may we still be -
 blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy, as we join with

Dm7 Gm7 Bb F Gm7 Am Gm Gm7 F

ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
 hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

Unison



1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,



un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.



New Year Prayer

A special prayer is offered

For you

On New Year's Day—

May God in His unceasing love

Send many gifts your way,

And may He fill your heart with peace

And be forever near,

Blessing you and guiding you

Throughout the coming year.

Happy New Year