

FOUNDED 1716

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 5, 2023

9:30 a.m.

**Second Sunday in Lent
Welcoming New Members
The Sacrament of Communion**

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *God So Loved the World*

John Stainer

***OPENING HYMN:** “The Living God Be Praised”

V255

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: We gather this day to worship our God, whose words and ways challenge us.

PEOPLE: God invites us to lose our selfishness to find ourselves.

Leader: God calls us to be fools in the world to show forth the wisdom of Christ.

PEOPLE: God urges us to empty ourselves to discover life’s fullness.

Leader: God bids us to be obedient to a divine will so we might know true freedom.

ALL: We come to worship our Creator, seeking to have our faith challenged into growth. We root our faith in worship, seeking to find nourishment for our spirits in this growing season of Lent.**

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

Come...God of wisdom and grace;

Fill our hearts with Your peace, open our eyes that we may see the wonders of Your loving presence all around us- and deep within us.

May we be dazzled and drenched by Your loving compassion and reflect this radiant peace to the world.## Amen.

***THE GLORIA PATRI**

P513

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and every shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:~*unison*

God of compassion, you know how we rebel against you. You know how we doubt and fear and hold back, when you call us to freedom and to partnership in Jesus Christ.

God, forgive us. Free us by the power of your cross, that we may serve you without fear. Grant us your peace through Jesus Christ who was faithful to the end.** Amen.

~ *silence* ~

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ALL: Thanks be to God

THE COVENANT OF MEMBERSHIP

Presentation of New Members

*Owning the Covenant

The Congregation's Welcome

We, the members of this Church, most affectionately receive you into our fellowship, and welcome you to our communion. We likewise promise to pray for you, to watch over and help you, and to advocate for your gifts and ministries among us. God grant that loving and being loved, serving and being served, blessing and being blessed, we may be prepared while we dwell together on earth for the perfect fellowship of the saints above.

The Right Hand of Christian Fellowship

Prayer

PSALM 121

V844

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 P. 1296

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

* **HYMN:** “My Face Looks Up to Thee”

V663

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: John 3:1-17 Page 1238

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

GIFT OF MUSIC

Sung by the Chancel Choir

MEDITATION: “Justified!”

Scott Morrow

PASTORAL CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Choral Response

THE OFFERTORY *Blessed Assurance*

arr. Albin C. Whitworth

*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. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Hymn of Preparation: “I Come With Joy”

V477

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:** “Let All Things Now Living”

V242

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: *Agincourt Hymn*

John Dunstable

*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.

Reprinted by permission from

<https://www.saintjoanofarc.org/liturgy-music/peace-prayers>;

retrieved 4/1/20

Music reprinted and streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE

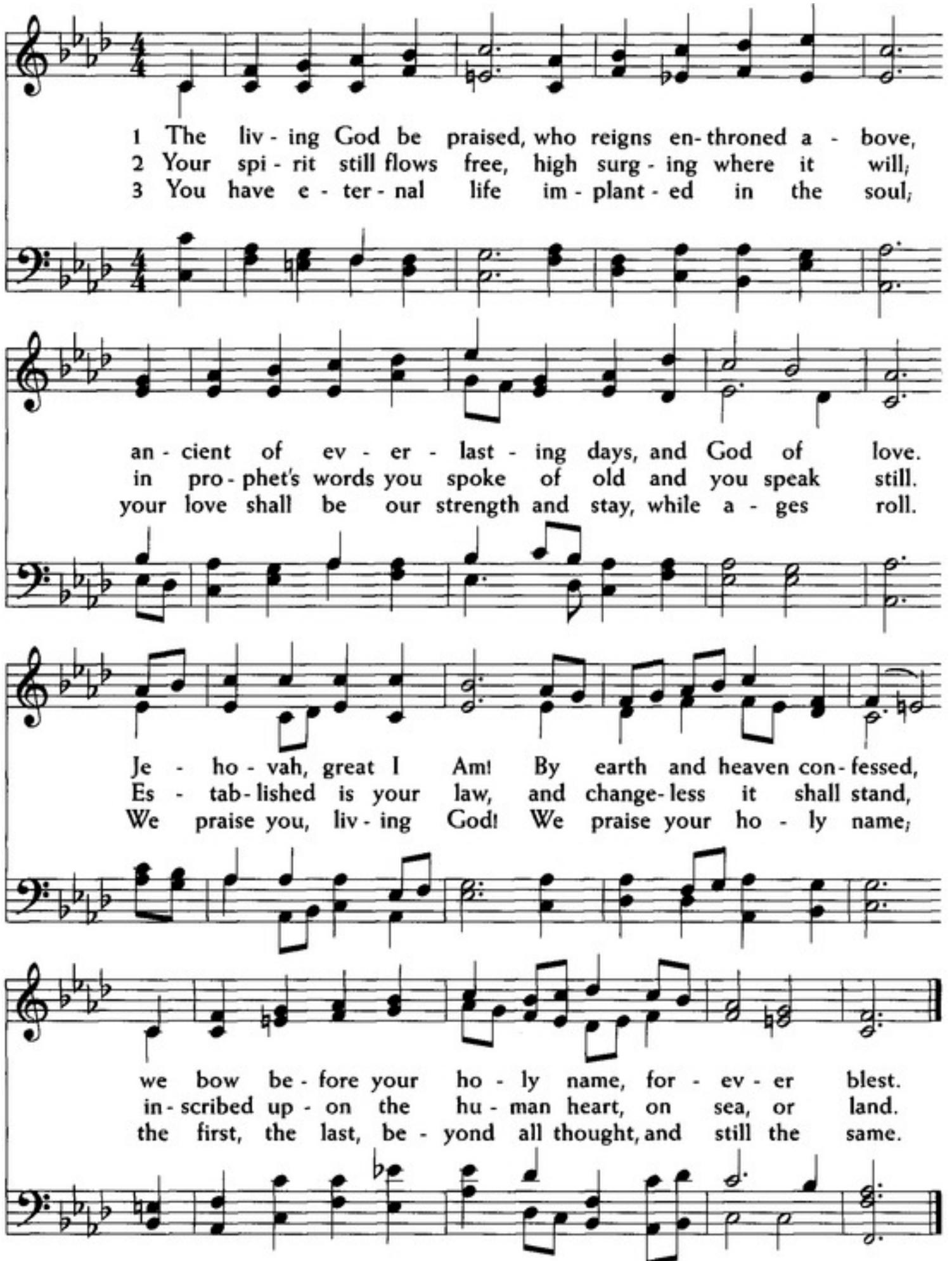
#A-719615. All rights reserved.

We welcome Priscilla Noriega and Victor Maldonado, and Craig Smith as they join the church today!

Deacon is Tim Peiffer. Fellowship Hour is hosted by Jim and Joan Bennett. Today's flowers are given by Mom & Dad Bennett, March 6th we celebrate the birthdays of both Francis and Cheryl Dutko and also their 5th wedding anniversary.

*OPENING HYMN: "The Living God Be Praised"

V255



1 The liv - ing God be praised, who reigns en - throned a - bove,
2 Your spi - rit still flows free, high surg - ing where it will,
3 You have e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul,

an - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love.
in pro - phet's words you spoke of old and you speak still.
your love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.

Je - ho - vah, great I Am! By earth and heaven con - fessed,
Es - tab - lished is your law, and change - less it shall stand,
We praise you, liv - ing God! We praise your ho - ly name;

we bow be - fore your ho - ly name, for - ev - er blest.
in - scribed up - on the hu - man heart, on sea, or land.
the first, the last, be - yond all thought, and still the same.

1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of
 2 While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs a -
 3 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my

Cal - va - ry, Sav - iour di - vine. Now hear me
 round me spread, be thou my guide, bid dark - ness
 faint - ing heart, my zeal in - spire. As thou hast

while I pray, take all my guilt a - way.
 turn to day, wipe sor - row's tears a - way;
 died for me, O may my love to thee

O let me from this day be whol - ly thine.
 nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
 pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire.

Hymn of Preparation: "I Come With Joy"

V477

Unison

F B \flat F

1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en,
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as
 ♦ 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di -
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that

Dm Csus4 Cm B \flat Am F

loved and free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 all are fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ♦ vi - sion ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 ev - er near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 God has done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the

Gm Am B \flat C Cm7 F

love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mun - ion bread, in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
 ♦ stran - gers now are friends, and stran - gers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

*CLOSING HYMN: "Let All Things Now Living"

V242

Descant

2 Ah, O

F Gm C

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
 2 By law God en - for - ces, the stars in their cours - es and

sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine. Ah,

F Bb F C7 F

God our Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise; who fash - ioned and
 sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine; the hills and the

the depths of the o - cean pro -

Gm C F Bb

made us, pro - tect - ed and stay - ed us, by guid - ing us on to the
 moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the depths of the o - cean pro -

claim God di - vine. Re - joice, re -

F C7 F C7

end of our days. God's ban - ners are o'er us, pure light goes be -
 claim God di - vine. We, too, should be voic - ing our love and re -

joice! With glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us
fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us
raise. Ah,
night; till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished,
raise: till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing,
to God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise.
as for - ward we trav - el from light in - to Light.
to God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise.

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

In Our Prayers This Week are: Merrilee & George Gladkosky, Linda Rankin, Linda Shannon, Marcia Foulds, Marlene Bellonio, Shirley Ryan, Joyce Bellonio, & Ellen Robert.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Amelia Murphy 03/05, Jaclyn Murphy 03/05, Francis Dutko 03/06, Cheryl Dutko 03/06, Amy Mears 03/12, Ryan Weiss 03/12.

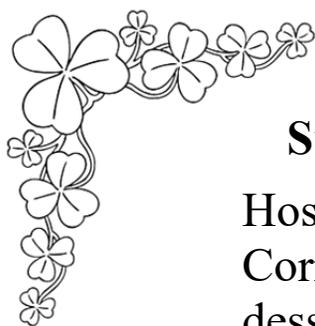
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: Kerry & Eben Stewart 03/08.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	3/5	9:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m.	WORSHIP(In-Person & Live Stream) OASIS- Accessibility Justice Day (SGC)
Monday	3/6	9:30 a.m. 10:30 1:00 p.m.	Music Together (Dbl) Music Together (Dbl) Retired Federal Employees (CH)
Tuesday	3/7	9:30 a.m. 9:30 10:30 12:30 p.m. 3:30 6:00	Al-Anon (K) Music Together (Dbl) Music Together (Dbl) PLP (L) United Girls Choir (CH,DBL, Sanct.) BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
Wednesday	3/8	9:30 a.m. 10:00 10:30 7:00 p.m 7:00	Music Together (Dbl) FOOD PANTRY Music Together (Dbl) MLB (L) Al-Anon District Family (CH)
Thursday	3/9	7:00 p.m. 7:00	Garden Club (CH) CHANCEL CHOIR
Friday	3/10	9:30 a.m. 10:00 10:30 7:00 p.m.	Music Together (Dbl) FOOD PANTRY Music Together (Dbl) Danish Brotherhood (K)
Saturday	3/11	9:30 a.m. 10:30 1:00 p.m.	Music Together (Dbl) Music Together (Dbl) Birthday Party (CH)
Sunday	3/12	9:30 a.m. 3:00 p.m. 4:00	WORSHIP(In-Person & Live Stream) ST. PATRICKS'S DAY DINNER (CH) OASIS- Accessibility Justice Day (SGC)

*Small print indicates non-Church function

Bold print starts new day.



St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser Meal **Sunday, March 12th, at 3 p.m.**

Hosted by Women's & Men's Fellowship

Corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, Irish soda bread, dessert, and coffee and tea

Adults: \$17

Children under 12: \$7

Special kids menu: chicken nuggets and mac & cheese

Reservations & payments MUST be made before March 5th!

Reservations and payments may be made during coffee hour. Reservations may also be made by calling the church office at 203-239-5691. Payments may be made on the church website, by mail, or in person. Take out will be available; must be under reservation and prepaid! Available for pick up after 4 p.m.

There will also be a 50/50 raffle after dinner.

Come join us for this long overdue gathering. Wear your green!