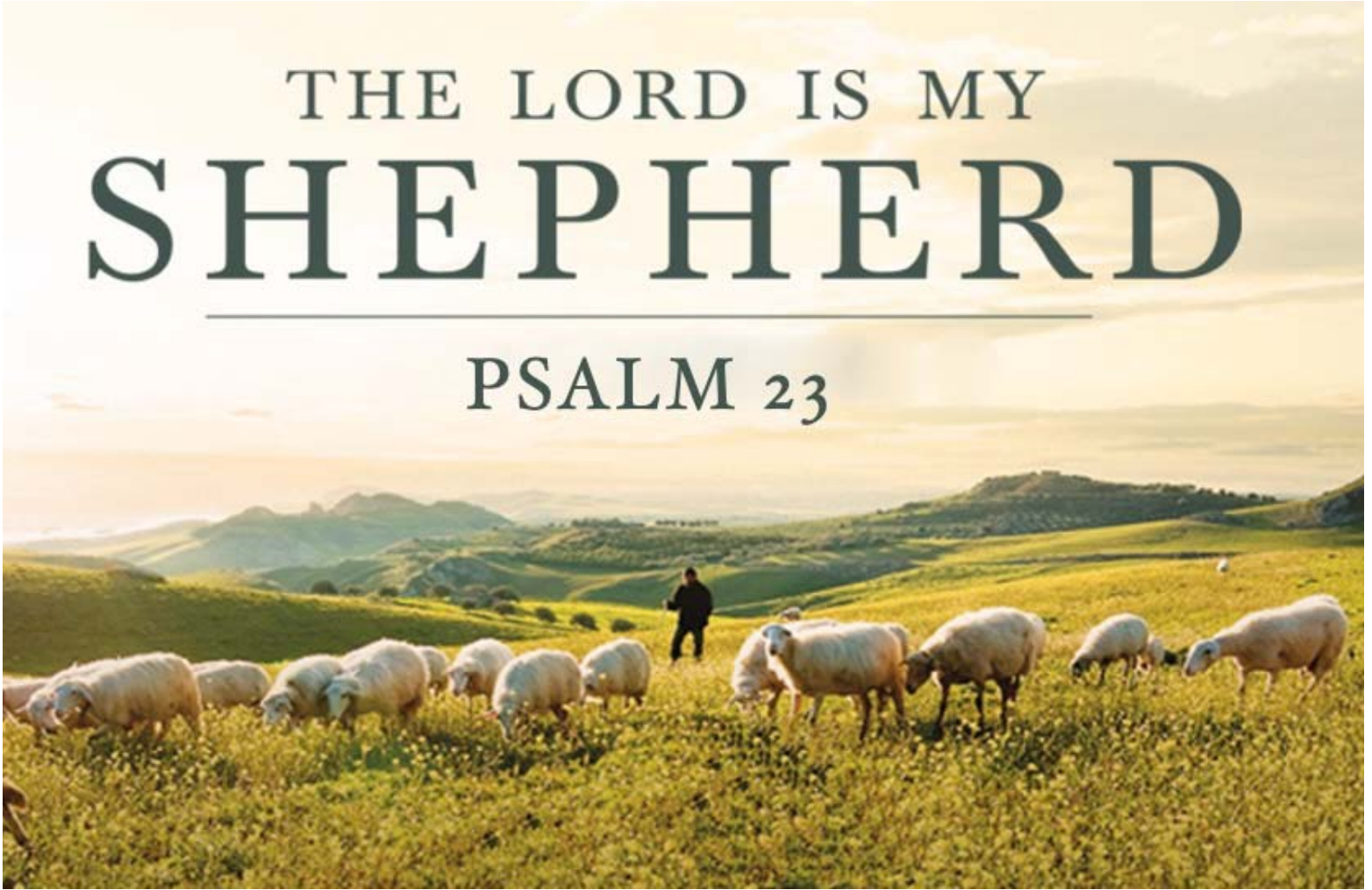


FOUNDED 1716
North Haven
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

THE LORD IS MY
SHEPHERD

PSALM 23



North Haven, Connecticut
An Open & Affirming Congregation

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

Sunday, March 19, 2023

9:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *Open Our Eyes* arr. Peggy Bettcher

***OPENING HYMN:** "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" V326

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: May the God of grace be welcome in our midst.

PEOPLE: May we receive the power and peace of divine love.

Leader: Come let us worship with our hearts and minds and bodies.

PEOPLE: Let us become one seeking justice and compassion.

Leader: Blessed be God who challenges, heals, and unites us.

PEOPLE: Blessed be our learning and blessed be our vision.

ALL: Blessed be God who inspires all things to be new.**

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

Good and gracious God, You are light for our eyes.

Good and gracious God, You are the air we breathe.

You give us the voice to speak and a joyful song to sing

You are, O good and gracious God, our path to peace.## 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, we do not trust in a new creation for ourselves or 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 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*)

Choral 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PSALM 23

V749

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: John 9:1-18a

Page 1246

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: John 9:18-41 Page 1247

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

GIFT OF MUSIC: “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

Text & Music by Kathleen Thomerson

Sung by the Chancel Choir

I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The Star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain:

In him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God.

I want to look at Jesus. Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. [Refrain]

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.

I want to be with Jesus. When we have run with patience the race, we
shall know the joy of Jesus. [Refrain]

SERMON: “New Eyes”

Scott Morrow

PASTORAL CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Choral Response

THE OFFERTORY: *Lamb of God*

arr. Phillip Keveren

*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

GREETING OF PEACE ~unison

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

***CLOSING HYMN: “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”**

V626

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: *St. Columba*

Robert Groves

*Those who are able, please stand.

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Deacon is Jim Bennett.

Today's flowers are given by Sandy Carter, in Memory of my Beloved Grandson Jack Viele on his 34th Birthday. Miss you and love you Grandma Sandy.

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: Catherine Dubail 03/19, Rich Mayhew 03/19, Hunter Coughlin 03/20, Ann Schneider 03/21, Lynn Lafleur 03/23, Elaine Burr 03/25, Herbert Schneider 03/25, Amanda Linsky 03/26.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	3/19	9:30 a.m. 10:45 11:00 4:00 p.m.	WORSHIP(In-Person & Live Stream) FAITH FORMATION MT (K) FOOD DELIVERY - Catholic Church OASIS- Paint Night (SGC)
Monday	3/20	6:00 p.m.	CT Record Club (K)
Tuesday	3/21	9:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 3:30 6:00	Al-Anon (K) PLP (L) United Girls Choir (CH,DBL, Sanct.) BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
Wednesday	3/22	10:00 a.m.	WINDOW MAILING FOOD PANTRY
Thursday	3/23	5:15 p.m. 7:00	Girl Scout Troop 60151 (K) CHANCEL CHOIR
Friday	3/24	10:00 a.m.	FOOD PANTRY
Saturday	3/25		
Sunday	3/26	9:30 a.m. 10:45 4:00 p.m.	WORSHIP(In-Person & Live Stream) FAITH FORMATION MT (K) OASIS- Rock Climbing (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.

*OPENING HYMN: "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

V326

G D G Em D

1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
 2 Je - sus! the name that charms our fears, that
 ♦ 3 He speaks, and lis - tening to his voice, new
 4 Hear him, you deaf; you voice - less ones, your
 5 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as -

G D7 G D G

great Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my
 bids our sor - rows cease; 'tis mu - sic in the
 ♦ life the dead re - ceive, the mourn - ful bro - ken
 tongues a - gain em - ploy; you blind, be - hold your
 sist me to pro - claim, to spread through all the

C G D7 G

God and King, the tri - umphs of God's grace.
 sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
 ♦ hearts re - jice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
 Sav - iour comes, and leap, you lame, for joy!
 earth a - broad the hon - ours of your name.

Refrain 1

Joseph Gelineau

Unison

My shep-herd is the Lord; noth-ing in-deed shall I want.

God is my shepherd,
 there is nothing I shall lack.
 You, God, make me lie down in green pastures,
 you lead me beside peaceful waters;
 you revive my spirit,
 you guide me in right pathways for your name's sake. R

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you are with me,
 your rod and your staff are my comfort.
 You spread a table for me in the sight of my enemies;
 you anoint my head with oil; my cup is overflowing.
 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
 and I will dwell in God's house my whole life long. R

* HYMN: "Be Thou My Vision"

V642

Unison

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 heaven'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.

1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.

2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down, and drink, and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched,
my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
till travelling days are done.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Music at Easter

The Chancel Choir, Jeff Hutchins and Gail DeBoer are particularly excited this year in anticipation of singing on Palm Sunday and Easter! The Children's Choir will join with the Chancel Choir on Palm Sunday, and trumpeters Reginald Mayo III and Eric Wolff will play on Easter Sunday! We invite your contribution toward this special music. **You may make your contribution by mail or online giving through the website. We appreciate your support.**

Easter Lilies

With the arrival of spring and its early signs of emergence of flowers and shrubs, we remind you of the Easter Lily Special offering that has been a part of our Easter tradition for many years. As most of you know, the lilies allow us to give a memorial to our family members and beautify the sanctuary for Easter Sunday. They will once again be distributed to our shut-ins and ill members after the service. If you would like to help with delivery please call the church office.



We invite your contribution by mail or online giving from the website. Please make sure to include your dedication. Your support is appreciated.

