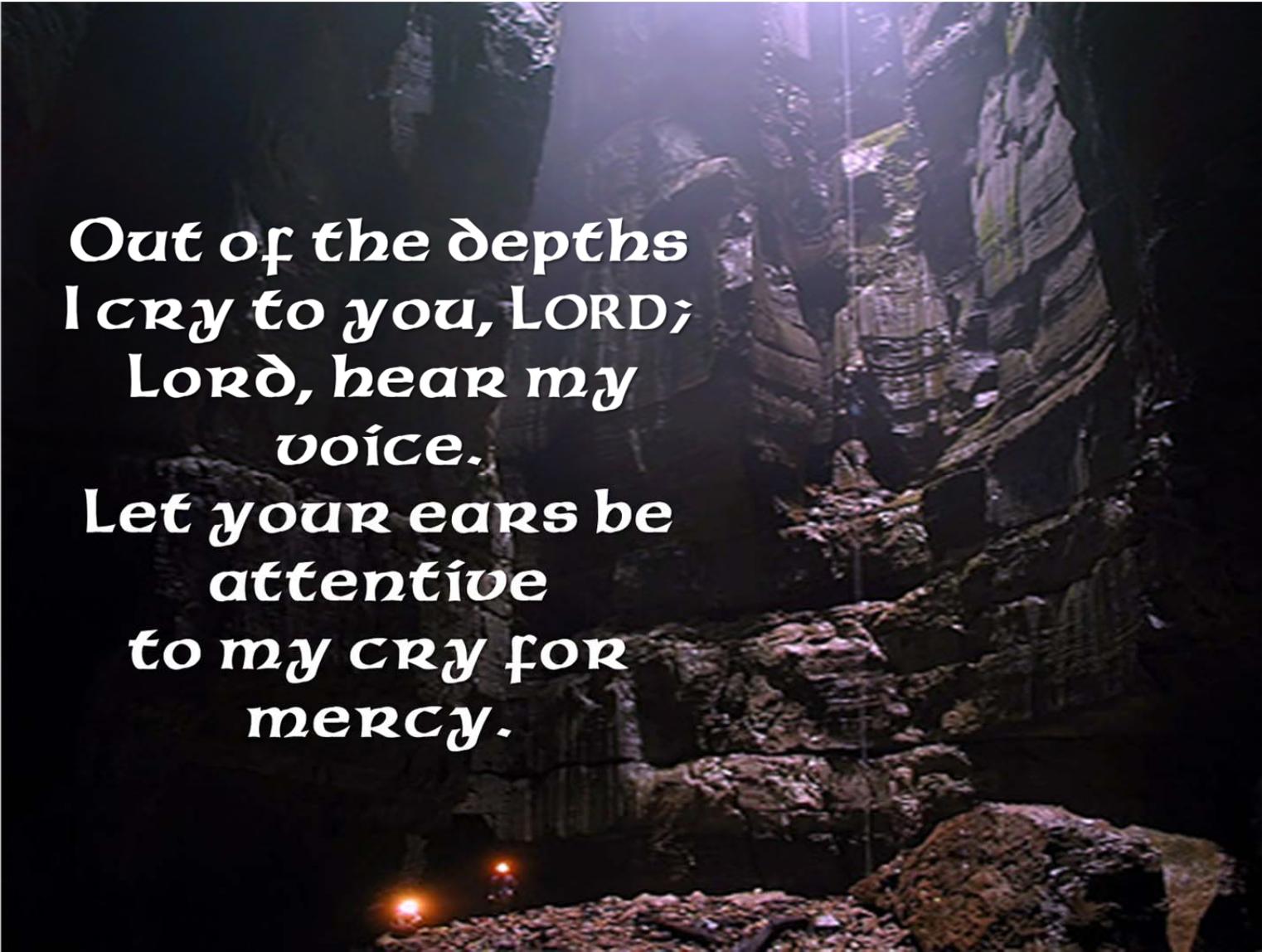


FOUNDED 1716
North Haven
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



*Out of the depths
I cry to you, LORD;
LORD, hear my
voice.
Let your ears be
attentive
to my cry for
mercy.*

North Haven, Connecticut
An Open & Affirming Congregation

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

Sunday, March 26, 2023

9:30 a.m.

**Fifth Sunday in Lent
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering**

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *Meditation on a plainsong "Kyrie"* G. Winston Cassler

***OPENING HYMN:** "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" V 220

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Sometimes we are a dry bones people, a people without hope.

PEOPLE: God raises us from living graves and fills us with Spirit.

Leader: Sometimes we are cut off from one another, and our sources of joy are dried up.

PEOPLE: God makes a home for us with one another where we live with celebration.

Leader: Sometimes we come to worship aimless and fearful.

ALL: God give hope, strange dreams, the promise of life.**

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

God of new beginnings, God of life and possibilities,
as You awaken the frozen ground bringing spring to birth,
awaken our frozen hearts to compassion for one another.

Stir within us the work of Your 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, you seek us and we flee. You offer us an easy yoke, and we tie ourselves with cares and burdens. You forgive us, and we hoard our complaints against our sisters and brothers. Give us conversion that turns us into the light; teach us a repentance alive in works of love; lead us into the narrow path; guide us through the valley of the shadow. Call us to follow Jesus Christ and his way to live and suffer, die and rise again.** 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.

NOISY OFFERING

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Karlee Etter

PSALM 130

V853

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Ezekiel 37:1-14 Page 794

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your

own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.”

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

* **HYMN:** “Out of the Depths, O God, We Call to You”

V 611

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: John 11:1-7, 11-15, 17-45

Page 1248

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had

not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

GIFT OF MUSIC: *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* Text: Unconfirmed
Tune: Evolved over time.

Sung by the Chancel Choir

“Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.”

SERMON: “Hope Is a Choice”

Scott Morrow

PASTORAL CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Choral Response

THE OFFERTORY: *Trust and Obey*

arr. Harold DeCou

*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:** "This Day God Gives Me"

V 410

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: *Westminster Abbey*

Russel Schulz-Widmar

*Those who are able, please stand.

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Deacon is Cathy Welch. **Scripture Reader** is Heather Mastracchio.

Fellowship Hour is hosted by Bernie and Elfie Hummel.

Today's flowers are given by Cathy Welch, flowers are given to the glory of God in thanksgiving for family with birthdays in March, my beloved husband Ken, son Dan, daughter Heidi and niece Misty.

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

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

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)
Monday	3/27	6:30 p.m.	New Haven Camera Club (K)
Tuesday	3/28	9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 3:30 6:00	Al-Anon (K) PLP (L) United Girls Choir (CH,DBL, Sanct.) BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
Wednesday	3/29	10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	FOOD PANTRY Girl Scout Troop 60071(K)
Thursday	3/30	7:00 p.m.	CHANCEL CHOIR
Friday	3/31	10:00 a.m.	FOOD PANTRY
Saturday	4/1	7:30 a.m.	MENS FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST (CH)
Sunday	4/2	9:30 a.m.	WORSHIP(In-Person & Live Stream)

*Small print indicates non-Church function

Bold print starts new day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Amanda Linsky 03/26, Sheree Alexander 03/27, Mark Bessette 03/29, Charlotte Shea 03/31, Janelly Ane Santiago 03/31.

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

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.

Descant

4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore him!

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, who rules all cre - a - tion;
 2 Praise to the Lord, a - bove all things so might - i - ly reign - ing,
 3 Praise to the Lord who will pros - per our work and de - fend us;
 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore him!

All that has life and breath come now with prais - es be - fore him!

O my soul, praise him, at all times your health and sal - va - tion.
 keep - ing us safe at his side, and so gent - ly sus - tain - ing.
 sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy will dai - ly at - tend us:
 All that has life and breath come now with prais - es be - fore him!

Let the A - men sound from God's peo - ple a - gain:

Come, all who hear: bro - thers and sis - ters draw near,
 Have you not seen how all you need - ed has been
 pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do,
 Let the A - men sound from God's peo - ple a - gain:

glad - ly with praise we a - dore him.

join - ing in glad a - dor - a - - - tion.
 met by God's gra - cious or - dain - - - ing?
 who out of love will be - friend us.
 glad - ly with praise we a - dore him.

Refrain 2

15th-century French processional
arr. by Healey Willan, alt.

Unison

Out of the depths I cry to you; my hope is in your promise true.

Arrangement copyright © 1995 Waterloo Music Co.

Out of the depths have I called to you.
 O God, hear my cry!
 Let your ears be attentive to my plea for mercy.
 If you should keep account of what is done amiss,
 O God, who could stand?
 But there is forgiveness with you,
 therefore we will honour you. R

I wait for you, God;
 my soul waits, and in your word is my hope.
 My soul waits for God more than the watchers long for morning,
 more than the watchers long for morning.
 O Israel, wait in hope,
 for with God there is love unfailing.
 With God is great power to redeem,
 to redeem you, Israel, from all your sins. R

Dm A7 Dm Bb Gm Dm C

1 Out of the depths, O God, we call to you.
 2 Out of the depths of fear, O God, we speak.
 3 God of the lov - ing heart, we praise your name.

F A Dm Am E Asus4 A7

Wounds of the past re - main, af - fect - ing all we do.
 Break - ing the si - lenc - es, the sear - ing truth we seek.
 Dance through our lives and loves; a - noint with Spir - it flame.

Dm A Dm Bb Gm Dm A

Fac - ing our lives, we need your love so much.
 Safe a - mong friends, our grief and rage we share.
 Your light il - lu - mines each fa - mil - iar face.

Dm A Dm Bb Asus4 A7 Dm

Here in this com - mu - ni - ty, heal us by your touch.
 Here in this com - mu - ni - ty, hold us in your care.
 Here in this com - mu - ni - ty, meet us with your grace.

- 1 This day God gives me
strength of high heaven,
sun and moon shining,
flame in my hearth,
flashing of lightning,
wind in its swiftness,
deeps of the ocean,
firmness of earth.
- 2 This day God sends me
strength to sustain me,
might to uphold me,
wisdom as guide.
Your eyes are watchful,
your ears are listening,
your lips are speaking,
Friend at my side.
- 3 God's way is my way,
God's shield is round me,
God's host defends me,
saving from ill.
Angels of heaven,
drive from me always
all that would harm me,
stand by me still.
- 4 Rising, I thank you,
mighty and strong One,
King of creation,
giver of rest,
firmly confessing
Threeness of Persons,
Oneness of Godhead,
Trinity blest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

One Great Hour of Sharing

Today we receive the One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering. More than half of the UCC offering is used for international development projects such as sustainable agriculture, clean water, education and healthcare. The offering also supports domestic and international programs for disaster preparedness and response. One program that benefits from OGHS support is Church Community Services in Elkhart, IN. The programs they offer include a food pantry, a *Seed to Feed* program that sponsors community gardens, and a *Soup to Success* social enterprise for women that produces dried food mixes, candles, and mittens while providing hands-on job training to participants. Please give as you are able to this powerful mission program!

Palm Sunday Procession

Please note that the worship service on Palm Sunday (next week) will begin with a blessing of palms and a procession outside the front doors. Those who prefer to remain inside will receive palms before the service begins and may either sing in place or join in the procession as it enters the church



Special Music Collection: Easter

A sincere thanks to those who give toward these “supplemental” church music-related causes using the pink Music Ministry collection envelopes or by giving online securely at the church’s website.



Easter Lilies Offering We invite your contribution toward the purchase of Easter Lilies for the sanctuary. The best way to make a contribution is online through the website, or by email. Please note to whom the Lilies are dedicated. If you send your contribution by regular mail, please call the Church Office with your dedication, so we know it is coming. Your support is appreciated.

Opportunities In Lent And Holy Week

Sunday, April 2nd: Palm Sunday Service;

In-Person and Online Worship 9:30am

Mon-Fri, Apr 3 – Apr 7: Prayer in Holy Week;

In-Person & Online 12 Noon

Thurs., April 6th: Maundy Thursday Service with Tenebrae;

In-Person & Online 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 9th: Easter Sunrise Service;

In-Person, Town Green, 6:00am

Sunday, April 9th: Easter Sunday Service;

In-Person and Online Worship 9:30am



Recycling for the children:

The Faith Formation Mission Team (Sunday School classes) have an ongoing fundraising program and we want your help. We are collecting returnable cans and bottles. There are blue recycling bins located in Carroll Hall and the elevator entrance. In addition, you can leave your separated bags of clean cans and clean plastic bottles. Glass bottles need to be in cardboard boxes. This is far better for our environment than leaving these 5 cent returnable bottles at the curb as part of your weekly recycling. AND it can make \$\$ for the church. Have your neighbors bag their returnables and bring it all to the church.