

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, August 13, 2023**

**9:30 a.m.**

**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 14**

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE:** Partita on "Greet the Rising Sun"

J. Wayne Kerr

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

**V326**

**\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Let us rejoice, for morning has dawned. A new day is born,  
and we are newly alive to enjoy it.

**PEOPLE:** We celebrate the beauty of creation and the wonder of  
human family. We remember those whose love has  
shaped our lives and whose struggles for justice have  
been unsleeping in spite of opposition.

Leader: We gather to worship God, to share prayers and gifts, to  
pledge ourselves to God's work in the world.

**ALL:** May God bless us, so that what we do in this time  
together may be honest, sacred, and filled with hope.\*\*

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

Come Lord!

Do not smile and say you are already with us.

Millions do not know you, and to us who do, what is the difference?

What is the point of your presence if our lives do not alter?

Change our lives, shatter our complacency.

Make your word flesh of our flesh, blood of our blood

and our life's purpose. Take away the quietness of a clear conscience.

Press us uncomfortably. For only thus that other peace is made,  
your peace.## Amen

*Dom Helder Camara, Brazilian Archbishop*

**\*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 INVOCATION:**~*unison*

Gracious and holy God, we come to you because you have first come to us. We know you because you have revealed yourself. Give us in this morning hour of worship a new sense of your Spirit breathing through us. Lift our hearts with the wings of song, heal our souls with the balm of prayer, enliven our minds with the words of scripture and interpretation, and newly enable us to dedicate our strength, our substance, and our service to your work in the world We pray in the name of Jesus Christ.\*\* Amen.

## **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.

## **THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON:** Luke 18:1-8

Page 1225

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

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

\* **HYMN:** "Forgive our Sins as We Forgive"

**V364**

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip. Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the thigh muscle that is on the hip socket, because he struck Jacob on the hip socket at the thigh muscle.

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

**SERMON:** "Demanding a Blessing"

Scott Morrow

## **PASTORAL CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

Choral Response

**THE OFFERTORY:** *My Hope is Built*

arr. Mary K. Sallee

\*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:** "Lead On, O Cloud of Presence"

**V421**

## **\*THE BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE:** *Dialogue sur les grands Jeux*

Francois Couperin

\*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.

## *Peace Prayers*, ed. Staff of Harper San Francisco; copyright © 1992 Harper San Francisco.

Music reprinted and streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-719615. All rights reserved.

We welcome Gail DeBoer as our substitute organist today.

**Deacons** are Jim Bennett and Peter Hall. **Scripture Reader** is Jim Bennett. **Flowers** are given by Lisa Phillips in loving memory of Rose Monaco.

**In Our Prayers This Week are:** Merrilee & George Gladkosky, Linda Rankin, Linda Shannon, Marcia Foulds, Marlene Bellonio, Shirley Ryan, Joyce Bellonio, Ellen Robert, Herb and Ann Schneider, Meg Adams, and David Gould.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:**

Jeanne Mecca 08/13, Michael Goldfuss 08/13, Mary Ellen Adams 08/15, Eleanor Harple 08/17, Phyllis Kaercher 08/17, Cindy Luedee 08/17, Lucy Mickolyzck 08/18, Philip Cooper 08/18.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:**

Kim & Rob Natoli 07/18, Elaine & Sonny Burr 07/18.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Thinking ahead to September...**

The Women's Fellowship will be hosting a Military Whist Card Game on Friday, September 22. This is a fun fund raiser. Seating will be limited and tickets are available now (\$12.00 per person) must be purchased in advance. Singles and couples welcome. Please call Carol Mitchell 203 668-0608 or email: [cdmitchell60@yahoo.com](mailto:cdmitchell60@yahoo.com). Light refreshments will be served and there will be a 50/50 raffle!

Doors will open at 5:15 p.m. and the game begins at 6:00 p.m.

It's fun and easy to play! Come join the fun! Bring a friend!!

Help with sewing and hand crafted projects needed.

**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

Heather Meachen, Organist

Julie Schweickert, Office Manager

Todd Swarney, Sexton

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE:**

FOR GOD SO LOVED  
THE WORLD

This holiday season, travel back in time to Bethlehem as the original Christmas story unfolds all around you. Journey alongside Mary and Joseph, a flock of surprised shepherds, and three wisemen—along with their camels! There may be no room at the inn, but God has a lowly stable prepared as the angels announce the coming of the Messiah!

Experience MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS as it comes to life on stage with massive sets and live animals in this cherished holiday production from Sight & Sound Theatres.®

SIGHT & SOUND  
THEATRES

MIRACLE  
OF CHRISTMAS

A 2-day bus trip to the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA, to see

*The Miracle of Christmas*,  
December 6-7, 2023.

This trip is open to EVERYONE—all church members and their families and friends!

Please see Carol Mitchell or Dot Pierce for a flyer and registration form. Deposit of \$100 is due at registration, and the balance is due no later than October 1.

Reservations are limited, so please sign up ASAP. Don't miss the opportunity to see this show. Sign up today!



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS\*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8/13</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream)</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>8/14</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Music Together (DBL)</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>8/15</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 9:30 12:00 p.m. 1:00 6:45	<b>Al-Anon (CH)</b> Music Together (DBL) PLP (Parking Lot/Library) Danish Sisterhood (K) Meeting (CH)
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>8/16</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 10:00 a.m.	<b>Music Together (DBL)</b> FOOD PANTRY OPEN
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>8/17</b>		
<b>Friday</b>	<b>8/18</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>FOOD PANTRY OPEN</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>8/19</b>		
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8/20</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream)</b>

\*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.

\* HYMN: "Forgive our Sins as We Forgive"

V364

D A D G D G A D Bm A E A

- 1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Christ, to pray;
- 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
- 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew;
- 4 O cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;

A G (A) D G Em F# G D A7 D

but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.  
 that broods on wrongs, and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?  
 what triv - ial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!  
 then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.

\*CLOSING HYMN: "Lead On, O Cloud of Presence"

V421

C F C C7 F C7 G

1 Lead on, O cloud of Pres - ence, the ex - o - dus is come.  
 2 Lead on, O fier - y Pil - lar, we fol - low yet with fears,  
 3 Lead on, O God of free - dom, and guide us on our way,

G7 C C7 F C G D7 G

In wil - der - ness and des - ert our tribe shall make its home.  
 but we shall come re - joic - ing though joy be born of tears.  
 and help us trust the prom - ise through strug - gle and de - lay.

G7 C C7 F A7 D G

Our slav - ery left be - hind us, new hopes with - in us grow.  
 We are not lost, though wan - dering, for by your light we come,  
 We pray our sons and daugh - ters may jour - ney to that land

G7 C C7 F C G7 G C

We seek the land of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow.  
 and we are still God's peo - ple. The jour - ney is our home.  
 where jus - tice dwells with mer - cy, and love is law's de - mand.