

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, October 29, 2023

9:30 a.m.

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 25

Reformation Sunday Bible Sunday

The Season of Generosity

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: No. 2 *Verset*

Louis Marchand

***OPENING HYMN:** "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

V262

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Come and gather in God's presence, servants of the Lord.

PEOPLE: God blesses us with gifts beyond what we deserve.

Leader: All God asks is that we make God's blessings to grow.

PEOPLE: And so may our gratitude deepen ...

Leader: Until our hearts are moved and the love of God flows through us freely:

PEOPLE: In offerings of generosity

In ways of healing

In acts of love and justice

ALL: Then we will know the joy of the Lord.**

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

Great God, who has told us "Vengeance is mine,"
save us from ourselves, save us from the vengeance in our hearts and
the acid in our souls.

Give us the strength it takes to listen rather than to judge,
to trust rather than to fear, to try again and again
to make peace even when peace eludes us.

We ask, O God, for the grace to be our best selves.

We ask for the vision to be builders of the human community
rather than its destroyers.

We ask for the humility as a people to understand the fears and hopes
of other peoples.

This we ask through Jesus, the one without vengeance in his heart.

This we ask forever and ever.## Amen.

Sister Joan Chittister - Benedictine Sisters of Erie

***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 ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION:~*unison*

Your servants have gathered, O God, receiving the gifts you have entrusted into our care. We confess that when times are tight, when the stock market is unstable and inflation is high, we are tempted to hide our money and diminish our gifts. Help us to set aside our fears and to trust that when we invest in your kingdom's work, blessings return to us in ways big and small. We gather to learn, to serve, and to grow in your ways of abundant grace, and ask your blessing.**
Amen.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION: ~*unison*

It is so easy, Gifting-God, to diminish the gifts you give us. We keep them hidden under claims of inadequacy; we complain about what we lack and want for more; we believe our gifts are unnecessary or unimportant. God of every good and perfect gift, when we hide, encourage us to be bold in sharing our gifts. When we are wanting, help us to trust in your provision. When we see ourselves as less than, give us the confidence that the talents you give us are just what are needed. Knowing that your mercy covers all our failing and fears, we give ourselves to you.** 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.

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

Karlee Etter & Scott Morrow

THE SPIRIT OF GENEROSITY

Dot Pierce

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 P. 1347

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith

and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

* **HYMN:** “We Limit Not the Truth of God”

Insert

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 25:14-30 P. 1174

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

GIFT OF MUSIC: *Taste and See*
Sung by the Chancel Choir

James Moore (b. 1950)

*“Taste and see, taste and see
the goodness of the Lord.
Oh, taste and see, taste and see
the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.”*

SERMON: “Encourage One Another”

Scott Morrow

PASTORAL CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Choral Response

THE OFFERTORY

*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:** “Standing at the Future’s Threshold” Insert

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: No. 1 *Dialogue*

Louis Marchand

*Those who are able, please stand.

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Deacon is Jim Bennett.

These autumn flowers are given by Barbara Massey. They are dedicated to all those having, and memories of those who have had fall birthdays, especially of her dad, David Diana.

The season of autumn brings cooler temperatures and changing into warmer wardrobes, raking leaves and acorns, watching football, baking of everything-apple, admiring the colorful pumpkin and mum displays everywhere. The beauty of autumn and nature surely surrounds us.

Enjoy and be thankful for God's work!.

Please join us for Fellowship hour in Carroll Hall after church.

In Our Prayers This Week are: Linda Rankin, Linda Shannon, Marcia Foulds, Marlene Bellonio, Shirley Ryan, Joyce Bellonio, Ellen Robert, Meg Adams, Paul Menillo, David Gould, and Sarah.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Dan Lafleur 11/01, Laura Alden 11/02, Cheryl Bogert 11/02, Onna Gott 11/04, Samuel Gott 11/04, Eliza Stewart 11/05, Jason Petrucci 11/05.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: Daniel & Paige Mickolyzck 11/01.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

During Generosity Season we are asked to consider how we will share our time and talents. Columbus House has sent an email stating that they were thinking about reinstating Abraham's Tent. The email asked if our church would be able to host a week. John Tibor and Priscilla Bradford have been the contacts for this program. We realize that our situation has changed since the last program about 3 years ago when we were a host church. For one thing, our building is used during the week by many groups which pay to use the building. Finding people to stay overnight has become harder. In response to this email, we will respond that we cannot be a host church but can help provide meals at another site. We are looking for a volunteer to coordinate this effort. Please speak to John or Priscilla Bradford

Holiday Food Drive Donations will be matched by Rotary

Monetary donations made to the Food Drive from now until November 13th will be partially matched by the North Haven Rotary. For every \$1 given, the Rotary will donate \$0.25. If you plan on giving to the Food Drive, please make your donation go further and give before November 13th. Thank you for your support.

Interested in Chiming for Christmas? There will be a short chime orientation on Saturday October 28 at Noon in the sanctuary. We would like to include anyone who is interested in making this beautiful music! Please reach out to Jeff and let him know if you're coming! To see a Chime Choir playing "We Gather Together/Amazing Grace" Please see this link: <https://tinyurl.com/ChoirChimeExample>

Footsteps in the Sand

Could you use a spiritual boost? Footsteps in the Sand is a Christian Renewal Weekend crafted to do just that. These Weekends are designed to help you draw closer to Jesus and feel inspired and empowered to come back to our church with renewed energy and enthusiasm to serve our Lord. Women's Retreat: November 17th – 19th

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	10/29	9:30 a.m. 2:30 p.m. 4:00	WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream) Music Together:Halloween Hoot (CH) OASIS: Murder Mystery (SGC)
Monday	10/30	9:00 a.m. 9:30 10:30 6:30 p.m.	Church Safety (Officer Sinanis) Music Together (DBL) Music Together (DBL) New Camera Club (CH)
Tuesday	10/31	9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 6:00	Al-Anon (RR) PLP (Parking Lot/Library) Bible Study (Zoom)
Wednesday	11/1	9:30 a.m. 10:00 10:30 6:00 p.m. 7:00	Music Together (DBL) FOOD PANTRY OPEN Music Together (DBL) Girl Scout Troop 60071 (RR) Lions Club (L)
Thursday	11/2	10:00 a.m. 3:30 p.m. 6:00 6:30 7:00	Music Together (DBL) Food Drive Council Girl Scout Troop 60151 (RR) Mothers of Twins CHANCEL CHOIR
Friday	11/3	9:30 a.m. 10:00 10:30	Music Together (DBL) FOOD PANTRY OPEN Music Together (DBL)
Saturday	11/4	7:30 a.m. 8:00 9:30 10:30	Men's Fellowship (Kitchen) Harvest Fair Music Together (DBL) Music Together (DBL)
Sunday	11/5	9:30 a.m.	DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream)

*Small print indicates non-Church function

Bold print starts new day.

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



A New England Fair

Saturday, November 4th 9am – 2pm

North Haven Congregational Church
28 Church Street, North Haven, CT
(203) 239-5691



Handcrafted Items
Cookie Walk
Grandma's Attic Treasures
Christmas Room
Nearly New Room
Doll Clothes
Jewelry & Yarn Boutique
Gift Basket Raffle
Grandma's Kitchen - featuring
homemade delicacies



Come and spend the day with us!

*You may find just what you
need for the Holidays!*

Women's Fellowship New England Fair: November 4 It's almost that time again! We have been planning, having workshops, and creating items. There are lots of ways you can help—before, during, and after the Fair. Watch for emails, sign-up sheets, and information in the Sunday Bulletins. It takes many hands to make a successful Fair. All are encouraged to participate in some way. Join us on Saturday, November 4, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. You will find a wide variety of items available, including handcrafted items, baked delicacies, the Cookie Walk, treasures in Grandma's Attic, a Christmas Room, RADA Knives, and bargains in the Nearly New Room. Come do some early Christmas shopping. You may find just what you've been looking for! See you at the Fair.

North Haven Congregational Church

presents

“Pierpont Concert Series”

MARK PLATT CHRISTIAN SINGER/SONGWRITER

Mark is an accomplished musician, singer/songwriter and playwright with a unique style appealing to all ages.

With over 100 songs and 5 CD's he has spent years on the road performing across the country; and now concentrates on local venues, special events and concerts.

He is Founder & Facilitator of *The Dragonfly Healing Ministries* and has served as Music Director numerous times for Tres Dias and is honored to perform his original Christian music in North Haven's holy sanctuary.

MarkPlatt.org

MarkPlatt.HearNow.com



28 Church Street ~ North Haven
Doors Open: 6:30
Light Refreshments to follow
Tickets \$15 (\$10 with student ID)

November 11, 2023
7:00 – 8:00 PM

Please join us for a special concert on Saturday November 11, at 7:00pm. Performing in the sanctuary that night is Mark Platt, Christian singer/songwriter who is a proficient musician, acoustic guitar and harmonica player, with a unique style appealing to both young and old. We would love to bring in audience for this event. Tickets are \$15. Students, \$10, and under age 12, free. Please come and support the church as we rebuild the Pierpont Concert Series after a long hiatus. We will also need volunteers to help with the reception. Please call the office or contact members of the Music Mission to get your tickets!

*OPENING HYMN: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Descant

4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
 3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -
 4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -

them, a - bid - eth; the Spir - it and the gifts are ours

fail - ing; our help - er sure a - mid the flood of
 los - ing, were not the right man on our side, the
 do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed the
 bid - eth; the Spir - it and the gifts are ours through

through Christ, who with us sid - eth; let goods and kin - dred go,

mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing: for still our an - cient foe doth
 man of God's own choos - ing: dost ask who that may be? Christ
 truth to tri - umph through us: the prince of dark - ness grim, we
 Christ, who with us sid - eth: let goods and kin - dred go, this

mor - tal life al - so; the bod - y they may kill:
 seek to work us woe; with power and mal - ice great, and
 Je - sus, it is he; Lord Sab - a - oth his name, from
 trem - ble not for him; his rage we can en - dure, for
 mor - tal life al - so; the bod - y they may kill: God's

God's truth a - bid - eth still, God's king - dom is for - ev - er.
 armed with cru - el hate, on earth he has no e - qual.
 age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
 lo! his doom is sure, one lit - tle word shall fell him.
 truth a - bid - eth still, God's king - dom is for ev - er.

George Rawson (1853, alt.)

Composer: Ralph Vaughan Williams

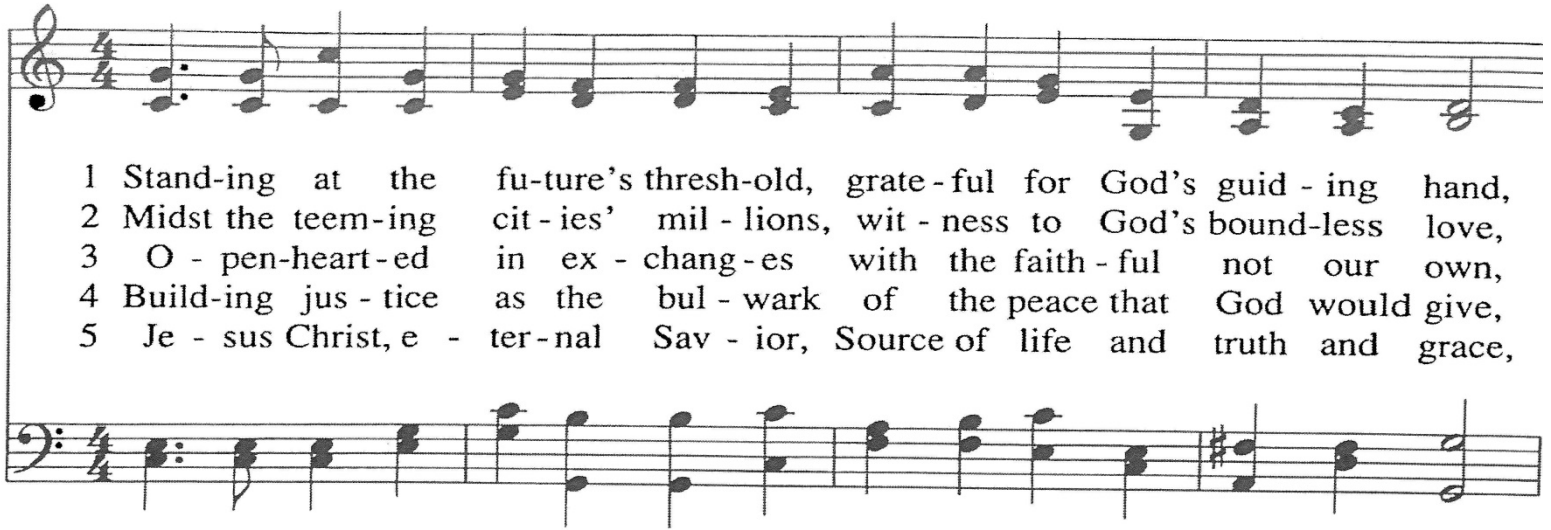
Tune: FOREST GREEN

1. We limit not the truth of God
to our poor reach of mind,
to notions of our day and place,
crude, partial, and confined:
No, let a new and better hope
within our hearts be stirred:
O God, grant yet more light and truth
to break forth from your Word.

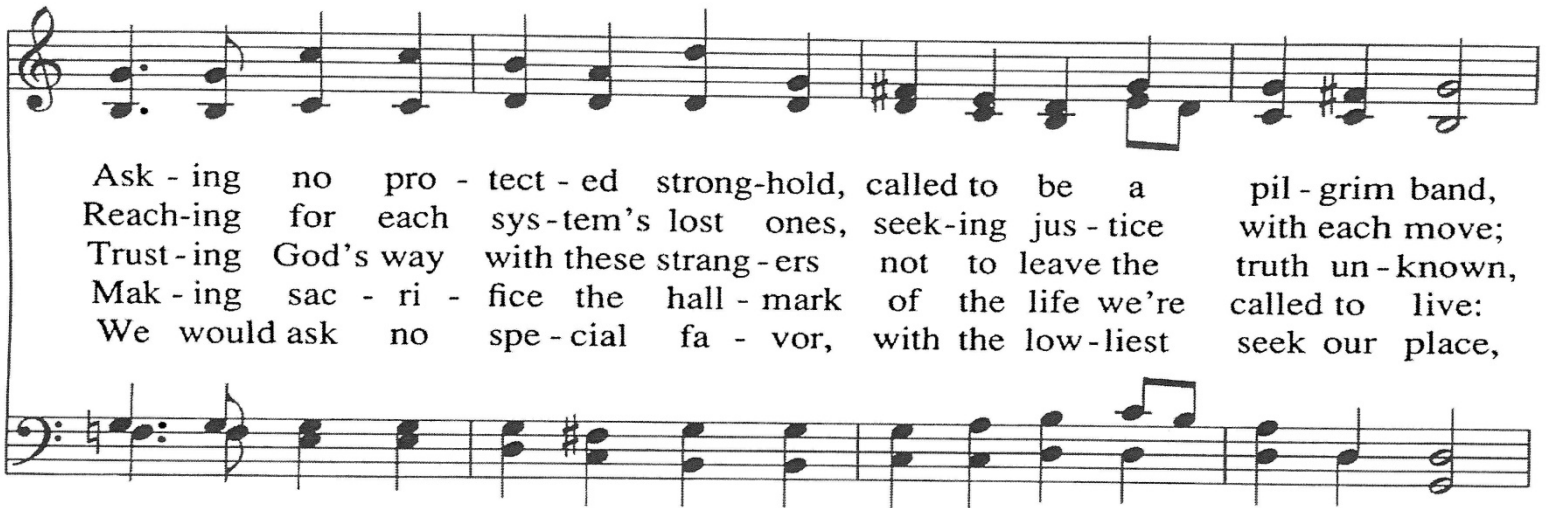
2. Who dares to bind to one's own sense
the oracles of heaven,
for all the nations, tongues, and climes
and all the ages given?
That universe, how much unknown!
that ocean unexplored!
O God, grant yet more light and truth
to break forth from your Word.

3. Eternal God, incarnate Word,
Spirit of flame and dove:
enlarge, expand all living souls
to comprehend your love;
And help us all to seek your will
with wiser powers conferred:
O God, grant yet more light and truth
to break forth from your Word.

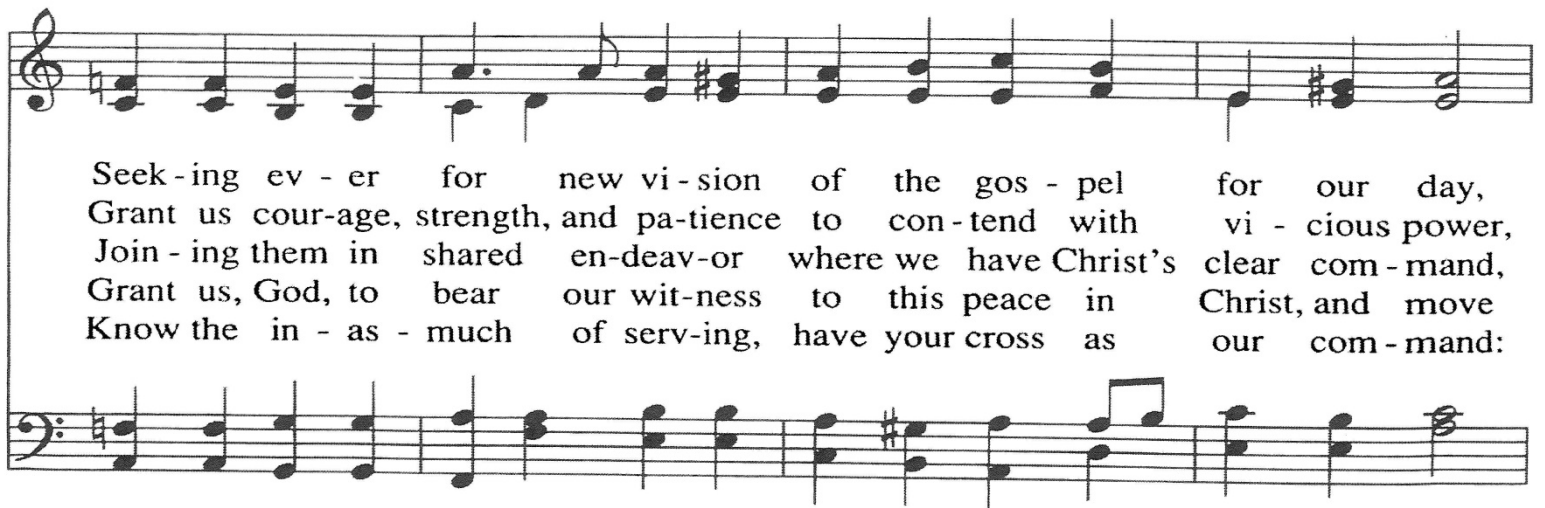
***CLOSING HYMN: "Standing at the Future's Threshold" Insert**



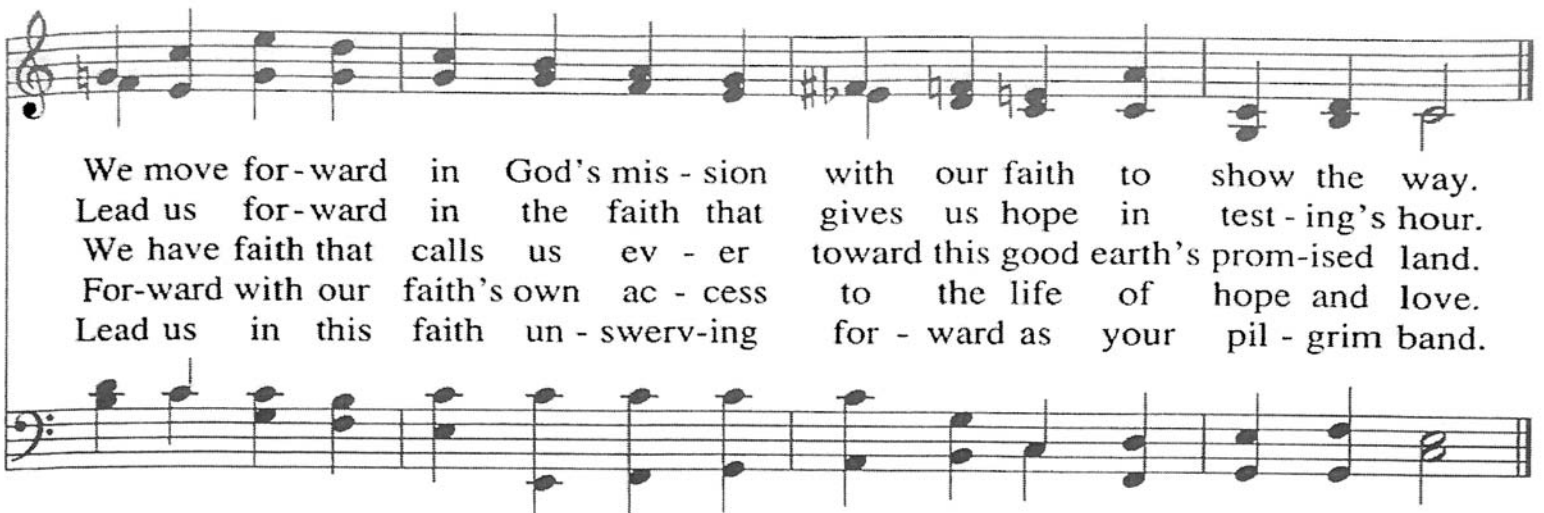
1 Stand-ing at the fu-ture's thresh-old, grate-ful for God's guid-ing hand,
2 Midst the teem-ing cit-ies' mil-lions, wit-ness to God's bound-less love,
3 O-pen-heart-ed in ex-chang-es with the faith-ful not our own,
4 Build-ing jus-tice as the bul-wark of the peace that God would give,
5 Je-sus Christ, e-ter-nal Sav-ior, Source of life and truth and grace,



Ask-ing no pro-ject-ed strong-hold, called to be a pil-grim band,
Reach-ing for each sys-tem's lost ones, seek-ing jus-tice with each move;
Trust-ing God's way with these strang-ers not to leave the truth un-known,
Mak-ing sac-ri-fice the hall-mark of the life we're called to live:
We would ask no spe-cial fa-vor, with the low-liest seek our place,



Seek-ing ev-er for new vi-sion of the gos-pel for our day,
Grant us cour-age, strength, and pa-tience to con-tend with vi-cious power,
Join-ing them in shared en-deav-or where we have Christ's clear com-mand,
Grant us, God, to bear our wit-ness to this peace in Christ, and move
Know the in-as-much of serv-ing, have your cross as our com-mand:



We move for-ward in God's mis-sion with our faith to show the way.
Lead us for-ward in the faith that gives us hope in test-ing's hour.
We have faith that calls us ev-er toward this good earth's prom-ised land.
For-ward with our faith's own ac-cess to the life of hope and love.
Lead us in this faith un-swerv-ing for-ward as your pil-grim band.

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.



Deciding What to Give

While there are many ways to support the congregation, our annual campaign provides a chance to think in a particular and prayerful way about the choices we make with our money in support of the church.

Without your gifts, we would not be able to engage in the programs, projects, ministry, and worship experiences that define our community life.

Deciding how much of our income to donate to charitable organizations can be difficult. We encourage our community to think of giving as a percentage of annual income.

The average gift to charitable causes in our country is 2% of annual income (per household). It is hard to imagine what our world would look like without these generous gifts that do so much good. Fortunately, we are not being asked to consider what the world would be without these gifts! Instead, we are being asked to imagine what just 1% or more might make happen! How many more lives can be changed because you and

I have decided to grow in our own giving? Imagine more people being able to say, **“Because of you, our church changes lives”**.

We are each on a journey toward abundant generosity. What next step can you take in your generosity journey?

Every gift to our congregation helps strengthen who we are and what we can do together. Because of you, our church changes lives.

CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.



Because of **You** our church changes lives.