

FOUNDED 1716  
*North Haven*  
*Congregational Church*  
United Church of Christ

*Hope*



North Haven, Connecticut  
*An Open & Affirming Congregation*

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

**Sunday, December 3, 2023**

**9:30 a.m.**

**First Sunday of Advent  
The Sacrament of Communion**

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE:** *Mighty Creator of the Stars*

Marcel Dupre

**\*OPENING HYMN:** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” vs 1-5

V1

**\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Hear the invitation of the prophet Isaiah:  
Come, let us go up to God’s holy mountain,

**PEOPLE: that we may learn to walk in all God’s ways,**

Leader: for God will judge between the nations,  
And shall decide for many peoples,

**PEOPLE: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks.**

Leader: Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

**PEOPLE: neither shall they learn war any more.**

**ALL: Let us come before God to learn the ways of peace.\*\***

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

God of hope, who brought love into this world,  
be the love that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought peace into this world,  
be the peace that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought joy into this world,  
be the joy that dwells between us.

God of hope, the rock we stand upon,  
be the center, the focus of our lives

always, and particularly this Advent time.## 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 ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen. Amen.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:~unison**

We confess, O God, that we do not take seriously your coming into  
our lives. We do not believe that salvation is near; we do not act  
uprightly, loving you, our neighbors, or ourselves; now do we bend

our swords and spears. Forgive us, we pray, that we might once again walk in your light, choosing for the world of our Christ.\*\* Amen.

~ *silence* ~

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**ALL: Thanks be to God**

## **THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

Scripture: Isaiah 40:3-5 p. 656

The Gannon Family

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the spoken, LORD shall" be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Lighting the Candle of **HOPE**

Prayer *unison*

Thank you, Jesus, for coming to earth, just like the prophets said, and for your promise to come again. Thank you, Jesus, for being our light so we know how to live. Amen.

Sung Response: "Hope Is a Star"

V7

Hope is a star- that shines in the night,  
Leading us on till the morning is bright.  
When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
And none shall be afraid.

**THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON:** Isaiah 64:1-9

Page 683

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

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

**\* HYMN: “As a Fire Is Meant for Burning”**

**V578**

**THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON:** Mark 13:34-37    Page 1195

“But in those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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

**GIFT OF MUSIC:** *E'en So Lord Jesus Quickly Come*  
Sung by the Chancel Choir

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from Him  
Who freed us from our sins  
Who loved us all and shed His blood  
That we might saved be.  
Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord  
The Lord, Almighty God  
Who was, and is, and is to come  
Sing Holy, Holy Lord.  
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein.  
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below.  
For Christ is coming, is coming soon.  
For Christ is coming soon.  
E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come  
And night shall be no more  
They need no light nor lamp nor sun,  
For Christ will be their All!

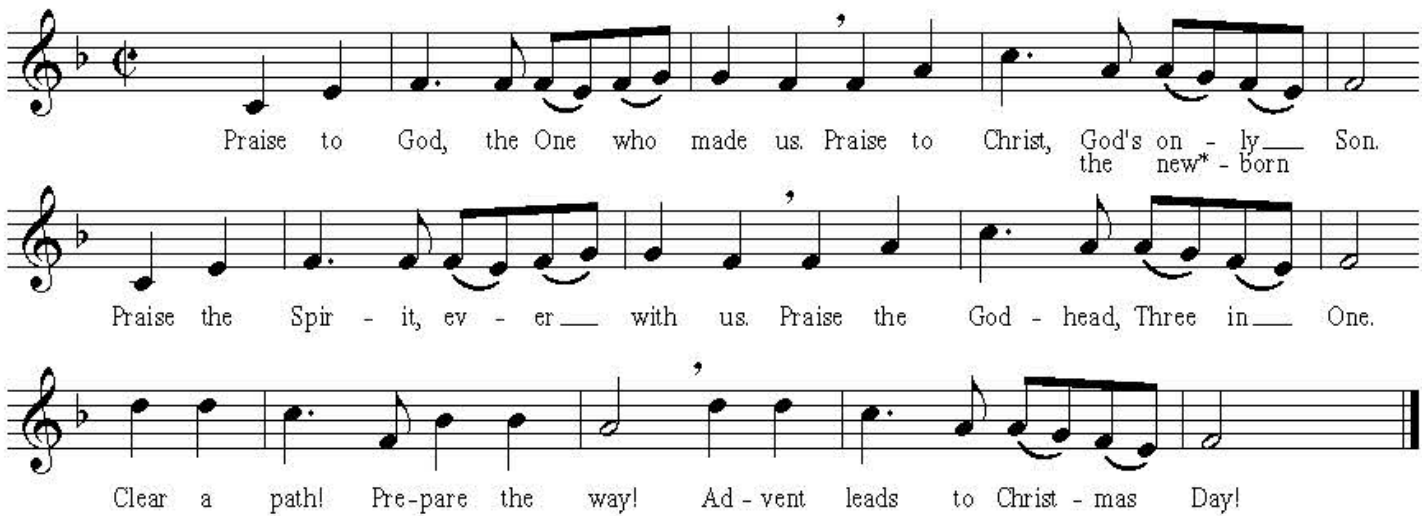
**MEDITATION:** “Take Out the Trash”

Scott Morrow

**PASTORAL CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS**  
**PASTORAL PRAYER**

Choral Response

**THE OFFERTORY**  
\*Advent Doxology



Praise to God, the One who made us. Praise to Christ, God's on - ly Son.  
the new\* - born

Praise the Spir - it, ev - er with us. Praise the God - head, Three in One.

Clear a path! Pre-pare the way! Ad - vent leads to Christ - mas Day!

\*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:** "All My Hope is Firmly Grounded"

V654

## \*THE BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE:** *Verso* (II)

Zipoli

\*Those who are able, please stand.

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**Scripture Reader** is Heather Mastracchio.

**Today's flowers** are given by Doris Ferner in memory of William Ferner, husband, father and grandfather, and for all who have December birthdays!

**There will be a Fellowship Hour** following our worship service today.

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

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Gerard Adinolfi 12/05, Robbie Juliano 12/07, James Studley 12/08.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:** Karen & David Linsky 12/06, Edward & Mary Ellen Collett 12/06.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE - Let’s Celebrate Advent!!**

Sunday, Dec. 3	Worship	9:30am
	Advent Night	5-7 pm
Sunday, Dec. 10	Worship	9:30am
Sunday, Dec. 17	Worship	9:30am
Sunday, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve	
	Worship : Christmas Pageant	9:30 am
	Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols	7:00 pm

**The Angel Tree is in Carroll Hall.**

If you would like to provide a Christmas gift for a child, please select a child’s name from the tree. All gifts will need to be brought to the church by December 17th. If you prefer to give a monetary gift you may mail a check to the church ear marked for the Angel Tree.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS\***

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>12/3</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 5:00 p.m.	<b>WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream)</b> ADVENT NIGHT (CH)
<b>Monday</b>	<b>12/4</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>New Haven Camera Club (CH)</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>12/5</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 12:00 p.m. 2:30 3:30 5:00 6:00	<b>Al-Anon (K)</b> PLP (L) Food Council (L) United Girls Choir (CH, DBL Sanct) Condo Association (K, CH) Bible Study (Zoom)
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>12/6</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b> 7:00 p.m.	<b>Food Pantry</b> Al-Anon District Family (CH)
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>12/7</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b> 7:00	<b>Mothers of Twins (CH)</b> CHANCEL CHOIR
<b>Friday</b>	<b>12/8</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b> 7:00 p.m.	Food Pantry United Girls Choir Concert (Sanctuary)
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>12/9</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b> 12:00 p.m.	<b>FUNERAL</b> FUNERAL RECEPTION (CH)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>12/10</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 3:00 p.m.	<b>WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream)</b> Music Together: Jingle Jam (Sanctuary)

\*Small print indicates non-Church function  
**Bold print starts new day.**

\*OPENING HYMN: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” vs 1-5

V1

Unison

Em

Am

Em



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el,  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high,  
♦ 3 O come, O come, great God of might,  
4 O come, O Rod of Jes - se's stem,  
5 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come,

D

Bm

C

Bm

Em



and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el  
who or - ders all things might i - ly;  
♦ who to your tribes on Si - nai's height  
from ev - ery foe de - liv - er them  
and o - pen wide our heav - enly home;

Am

Em

Bm



that mourns in low - ly ex - ile here  
to us the path of know - ledge show,  
♦ in an - cient times once gave the law  
that trust your might - y that power to save,  
make safe the way that leads on high,



Em D G Am Em

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 and teach us in her ways to go.  
 ♦ in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.  
 and close the path to mis - er - y.

Refrain G D Em Bm G Am Bm Em G Em Am Bm Em

Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

## 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.

\* HYMN: "As a Fire Is Meant for Burning"

V578

Unison Eb Eb Eb/G Cm Fm

1 As a fire is meant for burn - ing with a bright and warm - ing  
 2 We are learn - ers; we are teach - ers; we are pil - grims on the  
 3 As a green bud in the spring - time is a sign of life re -

Bb/D Bb Cm Fm Bb Cm

flame, so the church is meant for mis - sion, giv - ing  
 way. We are seek - ers; we are giv - ers; we are  
 newed, so may we be signs of one - ness mid earth's

Fm7 Bb7 Eb Cm Ab Eb

glo - ry to God's name. Not to preach our creeds or  
 ves - sels made of clay. By our gen - tle, lov - ing  
 peo - ples, ma - ny - hued. As a rain - bow lights the

Bb Ab Eb/G Bb G7/B

cus - toms, but to build a bridge of care, we join  
 ac - tions, we would show that Christ is light. In a  
 heav - ens when a storm is past and gone, may our

Cm Bb Fm Ab Eb Fm7 Bb7 Eb

hands a - cross the na - tions, find - ing neigh - bours ev - ery - where.  
 hum - ble, lis - tening Spir - it, we would live to God's de - light.  
 lives re - flect the ra - diance of God's new and glo - rious dawn.

# Hymn of Preparation: "I Come with Joy"

V477

Unison

F

Bb

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

Bb

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  
 ♦ 3 vi - sion ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
 4 ev - er near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -  
 5 God has done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the

Gm

Am

Bb

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.  
 ♦ 3 stran - gers now are friends, and stran - gers now are friends.  
 4 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
 5 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

# \*CLOSING HYMN: "All My Hope is Firmly Grounded"

V654

Unison

1 All my hope is firm - ly ground - ed in our great and  
2 Tell me, who can trust our na - ture, hu - man, weak, and  
3 But in ev - ery time and sea - son, out of love's a -  
4 Thank, O thank, our great Cre - a - tor, through God's on - ly

liv - ing Lord; who, when - ev - er I most need him, nev - er  
in - se - cure? Which of all the air - y cas - tles can the  
bun - dant store, God sus - tains the whole cre - a - tion, fount of  
Son this day; God a - lone, the heaven - ly pot - ter, made us

fails to keep his word. God I must whol - ly  
hur - ri - cane en - dure? Built on sand, naught can  
life for - ev - er - more. We who share earth and  
out of earth and clay. Quick to heed, strong in

trust, God the ev - er good and just.  
stand by our earth - ly wis - dom planned.  
air count on God's un - fail - ing care.  
deed, God shall all the peo - ple feed.

**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