

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, December 10, 2023

9:30 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *Verso* [III]

Zipolo

***OPENING HYMN:** “There’s a Voice in the Wilderness”

V18

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: A tiny jewel of light dances on the edge of the horizon:
a solitary star before sunrise glimmers a promise of dawn
at the end of the world’s blight.

**PEOPLE: It is the light of the World, “Emmanuel”
(God-with-us), the Promised One.**

Come to us, Emmanuel!

**We have seen your light and gather here
awaiting the day of your coming.****

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

We dream God’s dream, of a world at peace
Where enemies are reconciled, and children play in safety;
Where the poor and powerless find justice.

We remember God’s promise of a Ruler of Peace,
Filled with the Spirit of God, of wisdom and understanding,
Of counsel and might, of justice and faithfulness.

We light this Advent candle, and we pray:

Come Lord Jesus!

Open our lives to the Peace which you bring;

let us turn to you, and get ready!### 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

God of the loving heart, we confess before you those places in our hearts where we have refused you entrance: people we have refused to love; habits we never got around to changing; good things we have left undone; and ways in which we hurt you, ourselves, and others. Come to us in the light of your Christ. Shine on those places we have

hidden from you. Show us new ways to live. Sweep clean the rooms of our hearts, that Christ may find a home among us. Be known among us now and forever!** 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.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Scripture: Luke 2:15-20 p. 1203

Martin and Patience Benassi

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Lighting the Candle of **HOPE**

Prayer *unison*

Thank you, Lord, for giving us hope and peace even when life is difficult sometimes. Amen.

Sung Response: "Hope Is a Star"

V7

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
Giving a promise of safety and worth.

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.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "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. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass; their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers; the flower fades, [[when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers; the flower fades,]] but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom and gently lead the mother sheep.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

* **HYMN:** "On Jordan's Bank"

V20

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Mark 1:1-8

Page 1180

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way,
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight,' "

so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one

who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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

GIFT OF MUSIC: *Soon and Very Soon*
Sung by the Chancel Choir

Crouch

SERMON: “Choosing Baptism”

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

GREETING OF PEACE ~unison

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

***CLOSING HYMN:** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

V2

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: *Verso* [IV]

Zipolo

*Those who are able, please stand.

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Deacon and Scripture Reader is Tim Peiffer.

Today's flowers are given by Wendy and Tom Glynn in loving memory of Wendy's dad, Richard Jahoda, who has been wrapped in the loving arms of our Lord for 24 years. He is missed more with each passing year.

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. 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.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	12/10	9:30 a.m. 3:00 p.m. 4:00	WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream) Music Together: Jingle Jam (Sanctuary) OASIS Youth – Scavenger Hunt SGC
Monday	12/11	9:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m	Create Labels for Boxes (L) WOMENS FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK (CH)
Tuesday	12/12	9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 3:30 6:00 7:00	Al-Anon (K) PLP (L) BUILDING & GROUNDS (H) United Girls Choir (CH, DBL Sanct) Bible Study (Zoom) Nutmeg Treasure Hunters (CH)
Wednesday	12/13	11:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00	ENDOWMENT (H) Girl Scout Troop 60071 (K) MLB
Thursday	12/14	6:00 p.m. 7:00 7:00	Girl Scout Troop 60151 (CH) CHANCEL CHOIR Garden Club (CH)
Friday	12/15		
Saturday	12/16	9:00 a.m.	HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE
Sunday	12/17	9:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m.	WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream) OASIS – Christmas Red Carpet SGC

*Small print indicates non-Church function

Bold print starts new day.

Unison

1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
 2 O Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee
 3 But the word of our God en - dur - eth, whose
 4 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a

call from the ways un - trod: pre - pare in the des-ert a
 up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des-o-late
 arm is ev - er strong; God stands in the midst of
 call from the ways un - trod: pre - pare in the des-ert a

high - way, a high - way for our God! The
 peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the
 na - tions, and soon will right the wrong. God shall
 high - way, a high - way for our God! The

val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the lof - ty hills brought
 flowers of the field they per - ish, like grass our works de -
 feed the flock like a shep - herd, the lambs so gen - tly
 val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the lof - ty hills brought

low; make straight all the crook - ed pla - ces
 cay; the power and pomp of na - tions
 hold; to pas - tures of peace will lead them,
 low; make straight all the crook - ed pla - ces

where God, our God, may go!
 shall pass, like a dream, a - way.
 and bring them safe to fold.
 where God, our God, may go!

Descant

5 All praise e - ter - nal Son, whose

1 On Jor - dan's bank, the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; make
 ♦ 3 In you, we find a - bun - dant life, our
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose

ad - vent has our free - dom won; and praise to God whom

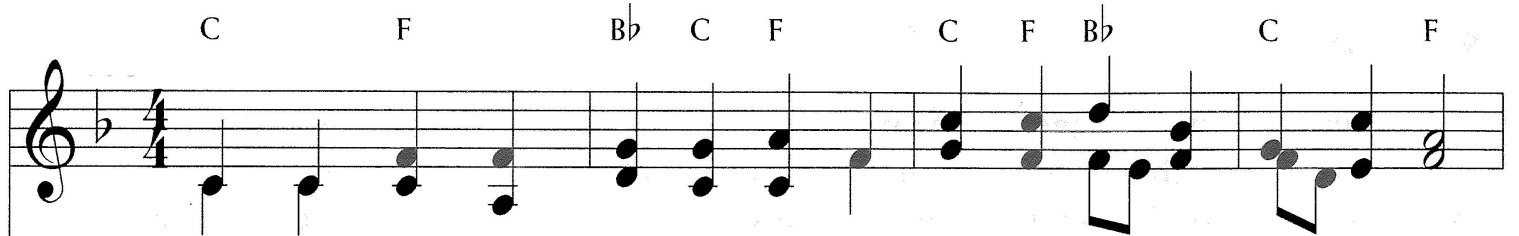
noun - ces that the Lamb is nigh; a - wake and hear - ken,
 straight the way for God with - in; and let each heart pre -
 ♦ ref - uge in the midst of strife; with - out your grace we
 help us rise to fall no more. O let your face up -
 ad - vent has our free - dom won; and praise to God whom

we a - dore for - ev - er - more.

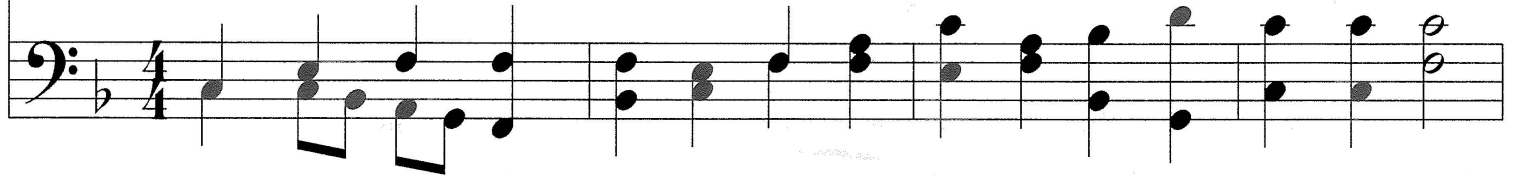
for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of Kings.
 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
 ♦ waste a - way, like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine, and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, with Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

*CLOSING HYMN: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

C F B \flat C F C F B \flat C F



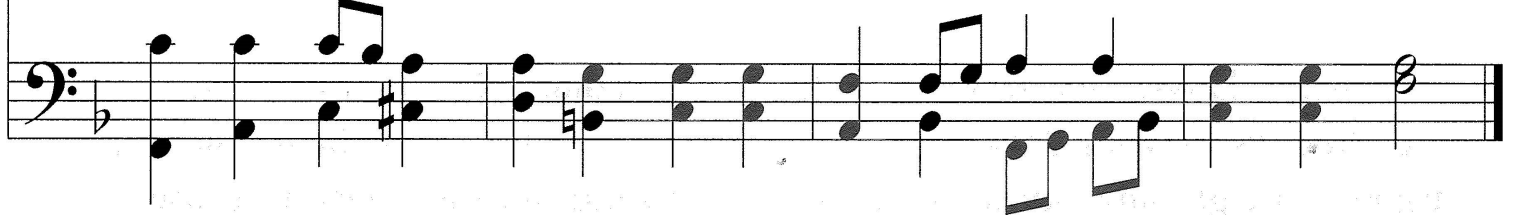
1 Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free:
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; born a child and yet a king;
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



F C A D m G C F B \flat F C F



from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for ev - er; now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.



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.