

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 17, 2023

9:30 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***OPENING HYMN: “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”** V232

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: God has shown love among us

**PEOPLE: by coming into the world in Christ, that all people
might live.**

Leader: My friends, if God has so loved us, we also ought to love one
another

PEOPLE: for if we love one another, God dwells in us.

**ALL: Let us worship the Holy One and seek to love as we have
been loved.****

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

God of love and mercy, thank you for your great gift of your Child,
Jesus Christ, who fills us with all that we need. Merciful God, we are
fully aware that not all your children are able to bask in joy or peace
during this season. We pray for peace within all walls: walls within
our own homes, walls that surround each city and town.

We pray that during this season of Advent we may usher your
promise of salvation into our lives and that we may share the Good
News of our Savior with others. We pray that the promise of your
birth may be the promise that we live in and share at home, at work
and at school.

May we be moved to compassion and action in your name.

We pray this in the powerful name of Jesus Christ.## 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

O Holy God, our Advent waiting is a confession. We wait for a
Messiah because the proud are still powerful, the mighty are still

exalted, and hungry people stand unheard at the door. We wait for your incarnation in human form because we have not recognized you in our sister, we have not loved you in our brother, we have not served you in our neighbor. In the stillness of Advent love and light, heal us and make us new through the good tidings of your presence in our lives.** 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 1:46-47 p. 1202

Kathy Harple and Dot Pierce

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,.

Luke 2:8-10 p. 1203

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:

Lighting the Candle of **JOY**

Prayer *unison*

Lord, today we rejoice. We rejoice because our Lord and Savior, Jesus is born in Bethlehem. Fill our hearts and our days with joy. We rejoice that you are with us always. Amen.

Sung Response: “Hope Is a Star” v 3

V7

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,

Telling the world that the Savior is born.

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 spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I, the Lord, love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my whole being shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

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

* **HYMN:** "Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness"

V28**THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely, and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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

GIFT OF MUSIC: *Come, Jesus, Prince of Peace*

Words & Music: Diane Hannibal
Arranged by Brad Nix

Sung by the Chancel Choir
Felicia Urbanski, violin

SERMON: “Wish You Well”

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:** “People Look East”

V9

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

*Those who are able, please stand.

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Deacon is Nancy Mahoney. **Scripture Reader** is Heather Mastracchio.

Poinsettias decorate the Sanctuary in honor of Christmas.

Please join us for Coffee Hour after Service.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Cynthia Boerma Campos 12/18, Carol Amico 12/19, Damon Quinn 12/19, Rich Gallagher 12/22, Saydee Baldino 12/24.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE - Let's Celebrate Advent!!

Sunday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

Worship : Christmas Pageant 9:30 am

Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols 7:00 pm

Poinsettias

The poinsettias decorating the sanctuary during the Advent season will be distributed to our homebound members.

Please look for the special envelopes that are in the pews. Contributions may be placed in the offering plates or left in the church office. Checks should be made payable to the “North Haven Congregational Church” and marked “Poinsettia Fund”.

The contributions that exceed the cost of the poinsettias will be donated to Outreach for urgent community needs.

Please mark the envelope with your dedication or email churchoffice@northhavenucc.org.

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 TODAY.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	12/17	9:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m.	WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream) OASIS – Christmas Red Carpet SGC
Monday	12/18	6:00 p.m.	CT Record Club (K)
Tuesday	12/19	9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 6:00	Al-Anon (K) PLP (L) Bible Study (Zoom)
Wednesday	12/20	7:00 p.m.	WINDOW DEADLINE MLB
Thursday	12/21	7:00 p.m.	CHANCEL CHOIR
Friday	12/22	5:00 p.m.	WEDDING REHERSAL
Saturday	12/23	12:00 p.m.	WEDDING
Sunday	12/24	9:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream) Christmas Pageant WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream) Lessons & Carols
Monday	12/25		OFFICE CLOSED
Tuesday	12/26		OFFICE CLOSED

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

Descant

4 Mor - tals join the chor - us, hal - le - lu - jah!

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore you, God of glo - ry,
 2 All your works with joy sur - round you, earth and heaven re -
 3 You are giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing,
 4 Mor - tals join the might - y cho - rus which the morn - ing

Hal - le - lu - jah! Love is reign - ing o'er us,

life and love; hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore you,
 flect your rays, stars and an - gels sing a - round you,
 ev - er blest, well - spring of the joy of liv - ing,
 stars be - gan; God's own love is reign - ing o'er us,

join - ing peo - ple hand in hand. Hal - le - lu - jah!

open - ing to the sun a - bove. Melt the clouds of
 cen - tre of un - bro - ken praise. Field and for - est,
 o - cean depth of hap - py rest! Source of grace and
 join - ing peo - ple hand in hand. Ev - er sing - ing,

Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

D G D B Em A7 D

sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way;
 vale and moun - tain, flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 fount of bless - ing, let your light up - on us shine;
 march we on - ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife;

Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward in the tri - umph song of life.

G C G D7 G

giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, sound their praise e - ter - nal - ly.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine.
 joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward in the tri - umph song of life.

1 Her - ald! Sound the note of glad - ness! Tell the news that
 2 Her - ald! Sound the note of judge - ment, warn - ing us of
 3 Her - ald! Sound the note of par - don! Those re - pent - ing
 4 Her - ald! Sound the note of tri - umph! Christ has come to

Christ is here; make a path - way through the de - sert
 right and wrong, turn - ing us from sin and sad - ness,
 are for - given; God re - ceives these way - ward child - ren,
 share our life, bring - ing God's own love and pow - er,

for the one who brings God near.
 till once more we sing the song. Sound the trum - pet!
 and to all new life is given.
 grant - ing vic - tory in our strife.

Tell the mes - sage! Christ the Sav - ing One has come!

*CLOSING HYMN: "People Look East"

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
 ♦ 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
 5 Ang - els, an - nounce with shouts of mirth

of the crown - ing of the year.
 one more seed is that of plant - ed there:
 ♦ guard the nest light that must be filled;
 one more light the bowl shall brim,
 Christ who brings new life to earth.

Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 ♦ ev - en the hour when wings are fro - zen
 shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 that in course the flow - er may flour - ish.
 ♦ God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

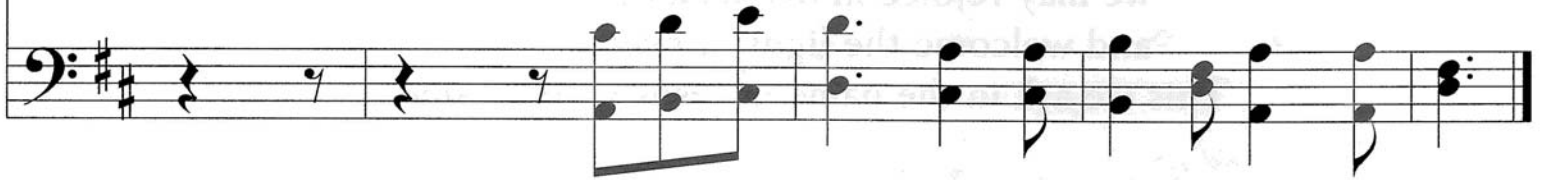
Peo-ple, look east and sing to-day:



Peo-ple, look east:

Love the guest is on the way.
Love the rose is on the way.
Love the bird is on the way.
Love the star is on the way.
Love the Lord is on the way.

Peo-ple, look east:



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

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.