

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 24, 2023**

**9:30 a.m.**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent - Christmas Eve  
The Christmas Pageant**

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE:** *I Wonder As I Wander*

Appalachian Carol  
arr. Keith D. Rowley

**CHORAL INTROIT:** *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

Trad'l Polish Carol, arr. Willcocks

Sung by the Children's Choir & Chancel Choir

**\*OPENING HYMN:** "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

V60

**\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Let us rejoice in God our Savior, who has done great things  
for us,

**PEOPLE: who fills the hungry with good things!**

Leader: Let us open ourselves to the Spirit of life and new birth!

**ALL: Let us worship God!\*\***

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

O Everlasting God, Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace,

You are the Joy of Christmas. Let us bring Joy to the world!

You are the Good News. Let us speak good news to the world

You are the promise of peace. Let us work for peace in the world.\*\*\*

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 sing "O Come, All Ye Faithful," God, but we confess we are not  
always faithful. We could have shown love this past week, but we  
kept ourselves busy with other things. We spoke without thinking and  
hurt someone. We treated the gifts and greetings and meals as chores,  
leaving out the most important ingredient – caring. We are sorry.  
Please forgive us, and accept our worship.

Amid the bright colors that surround us this season – the red the  
green, the gold – send the light of your Christ, that all that is good  
may be revealed more clearly, and all that is wrong may be exposed  
and changed.

We pray in the name of Jesus, who was born in Bethlehem, who lived and died for our sakes, and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.\*\* Amen.

~ *silence* ~

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**ALL: Thanks be to God**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*trespasses*)

Organ 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 Luke 2:1-7 p. 1203

Cynthia Campos Boerma & Jordyn, Cathy Welch

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

## Lighting the Candle of **LOVE**

Prayer *unison*

Lord, thank you for being with us on our way to Bethlehem. Thank you that you love us so much that you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, as a little baby. Amen.

Sung Response: "Hope Is a Star" v 4

V7

Love is a flame that burns in our heart,  
Jesus has come and will never depart.  
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.

# PASTORAL CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

## PASTORAL PRAYER

**MUSICAL RESPONSE:** “*Carol of the Bells*” Mykola Leontovich  
Aidan Nottingham, piano

## THE OFFERTORY

\*Advent Doxology (Once in Royal David's City) arr. R.G. Huff

Praise to God, the One who made us.

Praise to Christ, the newborn Son.

Praise the Spirit ever with us.

Praise the Godhead, Three in One.

Clear a path! Prepare the way!

Advent leads to Christmas Day!

\*Prayer of Dedication

**THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON:** Luke 1:26-38 Page 1201

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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

\* **HYMN:** "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

V8

## THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

**Carol:** “To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary” vs 1,3 V 14

**Carol:** “Jesus, Our Brother” V 56

**Carol:** “What Child Is This” vs 1-2, V 74

**Carol:** “What Child Is This” vs 3 V 74

**Carol:** “Silent Night, Holy Night” V 67

## LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

### GREETING OF PEACE ~unison

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

**\*CLOSING HYMN:** “Joy to the World” V59

### \*THE BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE:** Sonata No. 1 *The Joys of Christmas*

arr. Willard A. Palmer

\*Those who are able, please stand.

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**Deacon and Scripture Reader** is Jim Bennett.

**Fellowship Hour** is hosted by Wendy Civitello.

**Today's flowers** are poinsettias decorating the Sanctuary in the spirit of Christmas.

**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

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

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Saydee Baldino 12/24, Stephen Simonson 12/26, John Tibor 12/27, Heather Tolisano 12/29 Edward Collett 12/29, Sandy Mayhew 12/29, Elfie Hummel 12/30, Tanner DiVito 12/30, Alec DiVito 12/30, Bill Rose 12/31.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:** Bill & Robin Rose 12/26.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Today we receive the all-church special offering for **The Christmas Fund**. This fund aids clergy and lay church workers in the United Church of Christ who have underfunded pensions or emergency situations. Please give prayerfully and generously.

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED** Monday and Tuesday, December 25 and 26. If you should have an urgent pastoral need, please leave a message at the church in the “Pastoral Emergency” voice-mail box which is checked regularly each day.

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS\***

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>12/24</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>  <b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream)</b> Christmas Pageant <b>WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream)</b> Lessons & Carols
<b>Monday</b>	<b>12/25</b>		<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>12/26</b>		<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>12/27</b>		
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>12/28</b>		
<b>Friday</b>	<b>12/29</b>		
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>12/30</b>		
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>12/31</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream)</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>1/1</b>		<b>OFFICE CLOSED</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.

## **2023 POINSETTIA FUND**

**Barbara Massey:** In loving memory of David & Gert Diana.

**Dot Pierce:** In loving memory of Greg & Stephen Pierce.

**Carla Hill:** In memory of my parents: Mrs. Cynthia James & Mr. Phillip James, my bother: Mr. Brian James, my maternal uncle: Mr. Charles Gedney, my paternal aunt: Mrs. Marcia (James) Carthaus, my in-laws: Mr. Paul Hill & Mrs. Barbara Hill.

**Scott Morrow and Carol Amico:** In loving memory of Robert & Marylou Morrow, Anthony & Frances Amico and Robert Amico.

**Cheryl Bogert:** In loving memory of my parents, Joan & Albert Bogert and Edward Hazen.

**Kathy & Ellie Harple:** In loving memory of Warren & David Harple.

**Linda Lacobelli:** In loving memory of Anthony Lacobelli (husband), Tony Lacobelli (son), Mr. & Mrs. Frank Prentice and Mr. & Mrs. Lucien Lacobelli.

**Ed & Mary Ellen Collett:** In loving memory of Charles & Barbara Collett.

**Joyce Bellonio:** In loving memory of Anthony & David Bellonio, Edith & Frank Prentice and Eugene & Berha Allen.

**Bernie and Elfie Hummel:** In loving memory of Bernie and Elfie's parents, Paul & Irmgard Hummel and Martin & Adelheid Dimmlich.

**Jim and Joan Bennett:** In loving memory of Jean Bennett and E. Roger & Ethel Flynn.

**Susan Guckert:** In loving memory of my husband, Gary Heffernan, and my parents George & Agatha Guckert.

**Sandy Carter:** In loving memory of my grandson Jack Viele, my parents Richard & Carmel DeCola, and my Niece Cindy Henniger.

**Mike & Lori Murphy:** In loving memory of Brian Gallagher, Albert Aponte Gallagher, and Marie & Jack Murphy.

**Merrilee Gladkosky:** In loving memory of Wilmer & Jean Taylor.

**Wendy & Tom Glynn:** In loving memory of Tom's parents, Thomas & Helga Glynn, Wendy's dad Richard Jahoda, and Wendy's brother Tom Jahoda.

**Mastracchio Family:** In loving memory of Marcia Federico & Gioser Feliz.

**Lillian and Carl Flodquist:** In loving memory of David Thomas Flodquist (Son).

**Beth Anderson:** In loving memory of my husband Philip DiPeri and parents Robert & Catherine Anderson

**Mabel & Stephen Peterson:** In loving memory of Charlotte and Byron Liske (Mabel's sister and brother-in-law), and Stewart LaRocque (Mabel's brother-in-law).

**Sara & Bryant Munson:** In loving memory of Philip Munson.

**Catherine Welch:** In loving memory of my beloved husband Ken Welch, parents Henry & Martha Griffis, Betty & Max Welch, and brother David Griffis.

**Carol Mitchell:** In loving memory of Jörn & Mary Berg-Johnsen and William S. Dawless.

**Billy, Jeanne, Christina & Nikki Mecca:** In loving memory of Maria Mecca, Marylou Lampe & Susan Gooley.

**Wendy Civitello:** In loving memory of Nina & Papa Collett.

**Donations from:  
Joann Barber**

