

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 31, 2023

9:30 a.m.

**First Sunday after Christmas
New Year's Eve – Family Sunday**

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***OPENING HYMN:** “Angels, From the Realms of Glory” V36

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: A boy has been born for us; A child has been given to us;
And his name shall be called

**PEOPLE: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father,
the Prince of Peace.**

Leader: Once we were no people;

PEOPLE: Now we are God's people.

Leader: Once we walked in darkness.

ALL: Now we have seen a great light.**

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

In the new year that comes, O God, at this time of beginnings,
we ask your blessing on the congregation of the
North Haven Congregational Church and
on the people of our community.

We pray for patience and courage
as we seek a new hope and continue
to walk the path of justice and peace.

Make us a people of compassion and welcome.

Fill our hearts with song and our house
with joy as we journey together^{###} 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 INVOCATION:~unison

Mysterious God, you come to us in this season softly as a mother's
sigh, as startling as the cry of a newborn child. Come into our hearts,
we pray, that we might be cradled in your love and stirred by your
glory. We pray in the name of the one whose coming we celebrate,
Jesus Christ, the Bethlehem baby. ** 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.

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Page 681

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.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a beautiful crown in the hand of the Lord and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

* **HYMN:** "All Beautiful the March of Days"

V530

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 2:22-40 Page 1203

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what

was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word,
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

GIFT OF MUSIC: *Innkeeper* Words & Music by Roger Emerson
Heather Meachen – pianist/vocalist
Jeffrey Huthchins - vocalist

SERMON: “Words of Wisdom” 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:** “In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

V703

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

*Those who are able, please stand.

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Scripture Reader is Sue Compton.

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
Dave Nelson, Interim 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: Bill Rose 12/31, Evan Schweickert 01/01,
Genoveive Doyon 01/01, Lily Corcoran 01/02, Kimberly Noel 01/05,
Carl Flodquist 01/06, Bradley Schweickert 01/07.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED Monday, January 1st. 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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	12/31	9:30 a.m.	WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream)
Monday	1/1		OFFICE CLOSED
Tuesday	1/2	9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 6:00	Al-Anon (K) PLP (L) Bible Study (Zoom)
Wednesday	1/3	10:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00	FOOD PANTRY OPEN MLB (L) Lions Club (CH)
Thursday	1/4	6:00 p.m. 6:30 7:00	Girl Scout Troop 60151 (K) Mothers of Twins (CH) CHANCEL CHOIR
Friday	1/5	10:00 a.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Saturday	1/6	7:30 a.m.	MENS FELLOWSHIP (CH)
Sunday	1/7	9:30 a.m.	WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream)

*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.

*OPENING HYMN: "Angels, From the Realms of Glory"

Descant

4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

all the earth; ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
 beam a - far; seek the great de - sire of na - tions;
 hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

in his tem - ple shall ap - pear: come and wor - ship,

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,
 ye have seen his na - tal star:
 in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

1 All beau - ti - ful the march of days, as sea - sons come and go;
 2 O'er white ex - pans - es spark - ling pure the ra - diant morns un - fold;
 3 O God, from whose un - fath - omed law the year in beau - ty flows,

the hand that shaped the rose has wrought the crys - tal of the snow,
 the sol - emn splen - dours of the night burn bright - er through the cold;
 your - self the vi - sion pass - ing by in crys - tal and in rose;

has sent the sil - very frost of heaven, the flow - ing wa - ters sealed,
 life moun - ts in ev - ery thro - bing vein, love deep - ens round the hearth,
 day un - to day de - clare thro' speech, and night to night pro - claim

and laid a si - lent love - li - ness on hill and wood and field.
 and clear - er sounds the an - gel hymn, good will to all on earth.
 in ev - er - chang - ing words of light the won - der of your name.

Unison



1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,



un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

