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North Haven
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



North Haven Congregational Church

North Haven, Connecticut
An Open & Affirming Congregation

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

Sunday, February 4, 2024

9:30 a.m.

**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
The Sacrament of Communion**

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***OPENING HYMN:** “Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above” V216

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: We have been called the salt of the earth.

PEOPLE: Let us remain hidden and distinctive.

Leader: We have been called the light of the world,

PEOPLE: Let us shine brightly in the midst of pain or confusion.

Leader: We have been called a city set on a hill.

ALL: **Let us, like Jerusalem, lift up our gates, lift our hearts, lift our voices in the worship of God.

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

Circle me, Lord.

Circle me, Lord.

Keep protection near

Keep light near

And danger afar.

And darkness afar.

Circle me, Lord

Circle me, Lord.

Keep hope within.

Keep peace within.

Keep doubt without.

Keep evil out.## 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

You are our light, O God. In your presence our way becomes clearer. Like small candles lit from the Christ candle, we can shine with love and hope because of you. Yet we confess to you, O God, that we often hide our light. Not trusting our perceptions we do not speak our truth. No trusting our abilities, we do not share our gifts Fearful, we do not reach out in friendship, we do not raise issues that should be raised, we do not break the silence of anger to give or seek forgiveness. Help us to trust you where we cannot trust ourselves. Radiate through us with your holy love and wisdom, healing the hurts of the past, giving us courage for the future, through Jesus Christ , our light.** Amen.

~ silence ~

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ALL: Thanks be to God

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 40:21-31 Page 657

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, who stretches out the heavens like a curtain and spreads them like a tent to live in, who brings princes to naught and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

To whom, then, will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob, and assert, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God”? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted, but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

* **HYMN:** “Eternal Father, Strong to Save” V659

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: John 15:12-17 Page 1254

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

GIFT OF MUSIC: *Taste and See*

James Moore (b. 1950)

Sung by the Chancel Choir

*“Taste and see, taste and see
the goodness of the Lord.
Oh, taste and see, taste and see
the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.”*

MEDITATION: “No Greater Love”

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

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Hymn of Preparation: “In the Darkness Shines the Splendor” V92

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:** “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” V264

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE:

*Those who are able, please stand.

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Deacon is Peter Hall. **Scripture Reader** is Carol Amico.
Fellowship Hour is hosted by Sara and Bryant Munson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Concert in the Sanctuary! Saturday, February 10, at 7:00PM

Please come support this major fundraiser for the church! The annual Pierpont Concert, featuring the North Haven High School Jazz and Vocal Ensembles, is always great! It is also a mutual fundraiser for both the North Haven High School music department and the Pierpont Concert Series here at the church. This annual NHHS concert, which has been happening for over a decade now, has always been very high energy and quite amazing! Band Director Susan Oakley and Choir Director Sarah Iadarola are very talented teachers and North Haven is quite blessed to have them. The program is always entertaining and diverse, featuring very old to very new musical works. It's great to see what these talented students are up to as they develop their musicianship and cohesiveness as an ensemble. The youthful musical energy is not to be missed. The church pews fill up fast for this one, so please secure your ticket soon and arrive early, if possible. Doors open at 6:30pm. We have recently raised the ticket price to \$15 general admission. We had been charging only \$10 for all of the Pierpont Concert Series history, 20+ years! Student tickets are still \$10 and if you have any audience members in your family under age 12, it's still free admission for them. Thanks for your support, past and present, in this concert series.

In addition to cash and check, ticket sales can also be made through the "online giving" portal of the church website. In the "note" section you can specify the name and number of tickets you are reserving. Calling Julie in the office or seeing a member of the Music Mission team works, too.



Scout Sunday: Next Sunday, February 11th

We will observe celebrate the Scouting program for boys and girls on Sunday, February 11. We encourage all Scouts, current and former, to attend and be recognized. Scouts, and particularly current Scouts, are encouraged to wear their uniforms.

Pancake Breakfast

On Sunday, February 11. We encourage everyone to join the Men's and Women's Fellowship at our Pancake Breakfast following Worship.

Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday falls on February 14th this year, along with another familiar observance. There will be a service at noon on Ash Wednesday. Please come to the in-person service if you are able. The service will be livestreamed, and a recording will be available if you would like to watch later.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Sophie Grant 02/04, Walter Kaercher 02/06, Emma Alden 02/08, Tom Glynn 02/09, Daniel Mickolyzck 02/10, Hunter Conley 02/11, Mattison Mondene 02/11.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	2/4	9:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m.	WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream) OASIS – Arts Night
Monday	2/5	9:30 a.m.	Music Together (DBL)
Tuesday	2/6	9:30 a.m. 9:30 12:00 p.m. 3:30 6:00	Al-Anon (K) Music Together (DBL) PLP (L) United Girls Choir (CH, Sanct.) Bible Study (Zoom)
Wednesday	2/7	9:30 a.m. 9:30 10:30 5:15pm 6:00 7:00 7:00	Music Together (DBL) FOOD PANTRY OPEN Music Together (DBL) COMMUNICATIONS ZOOM Girl Scout 60071 (K) OASIS – Worship Wednesday (Zoom) - Inclusion Lions Club (CH)
Thursday	2/8	7:00 p.m. 7:00	Garden Club (CH) CHANCEL CHOIR
Friday	2/9	9:30 a.m. 9:30 10:30 7:00 p.m.	Music Together (DBL) FOOD PANTRY OPEN Music Together (DBL) Danish Brotherhood (K)
Saturday	2/10	9:30 a.m. 10:30 7:00 p.m.	Music Together (DBL) Music Together (DBL) PIERPONT CONCERT NHHS CHORAL & JAZZ
Sunday	2/11	9:30 a.m. 10:30 4:00 p.m.	WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream) PANCAKE BREAKFAST OASIS – Love & Ashes Party

*Small print indicates non-Church function

Bold print starts new day.

***OPENING HYMN: "Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above" V216**

1 Sing praise to God, who reigns a - bove, the God of all cre -
 2 What God's al-might-y power hath made, God's gra-cious mer - cy
 3 Our God is nev - er far a - way, but through all grief dis -
 4 Thus all my glad-some way a - long, I sing a - loud thy

a - tion, the God of power, the God of love, the God of
 keep - eth: by morn-ing glow or eve-ning shade God's watch-ful
 tress - ing, an ev - er - pres - ent help and stay, our peace, and
 prais - es that all may hear the grate-ful song my voice un -

our sal - va - tion; with heal-ing balm my soul is filled, and
 eye ne'er sleep - eth; with - in the shel - ter of God's might, lo!
 joy, and bless - ing; as with a moth - er's ten - der hand, God
 wea - ried rais - es. Be joy - ful in your God, my heart! Both

ev - ery faith - less mur - mur stilled:
 all is just and all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry!
 gent - ly leads the cho - sen band:
 soul and bod - y take your part:

* HYMN: "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

V659

C F C G

1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose
 2 O Christ, whose voice the wa - ters heard, and
 3 O Ho - ly Spi - rit, who didst brood up -
 4 O Trin - i - ty of love and power, all

Am D G D G G7 C

arm has bound the rest - less wave, who bade the might - y
 hushed their rag - ing at thy word, who walked up - on the
 on the cha - os dark and rude, and bade its an - gry
 trav - ellers guard in dan - ger's hour. From rock and tem - pest,

A7 D B Em B7 Em F#m Em B Em

o - cean deep its own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: O
 foam - ing deep, and calm a - mid the storm did sleep: O
 tu - mult cease, and gave for wild con - fu - sion, peace: O
 fire and foe, pro - tect them where - so - e'er they go: thus

C7 F D7 G G7 C D7 C G7 C

hear us when we cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 hear us when we cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 hear us when we cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 ev - er - more shall rise to thee glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

Hymn of Preparation: "In the Darkness Shines the Splendor" V92

1 In the dark - ness shines the splen - dour of the
2 Light of na - tions, veiled in his - tory, born of
3 Bro - ken bread, sus - tain - ing us in sor - row, wine poured
4 All God's peo - ple, sing in ju - bi - la - tion of the

Word who took our flesh, wel - com - ing, in love's sur -
wo - man's flesh and blood, call - ing to the depths of
out to toast our joy; ex - o - dus and new to -
birth that sets us free, tell - ing of the rev - e -

ren - der, death's dark shad - ow at his crèche. Bear - ing
mys - tery rest - less hearts that seek the good. Heal - ing
mor - row, life's full prom - ise to en - joy! Glad - dening
la - tion: Je - sus, God's e - piph - a - ny. Cel - e -

ev - ery hu - man sto - ry, Word made flesh re - veals his glo - ry.
ev - ery hu - man sto - ry, Word made flesh re - veals his glo - ry.
ev - ery hu - man sto - ry, Word made flesh re - veals his glo - ry.
brate the hu - man sto - ry! Word made flesh re - veals our glo - ry.

*CLOSING HYMN: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

V264

G C Am D G D7 G

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise;
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry, thou rul - est in light;

G C Am D G D7 G

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes;
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

G D G (Em) D G D

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 all praise we would ren - der, O help us to see

G C Am D G D7 G

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dour of light hid - eth thee!

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.

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