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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 18, 2024

9:30 a.m.

First Sunday in Lent

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***OPENING HYMN: “Forty Days and Forty Nights”**

V114

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: A new song, a song of Lent,

PEOPLE: Arising from our life together.

Leader: A song of praise,

PEOPLE: Redeeming our tragedies and celebrating our triumphs.

Leader: A song of joy,

PEOPLE: To God, who revels in our uniqueness and delights in our commonness.

Leader: A love song,

PEOPLE: To God, who tends the wounds of the heart, who restores hope to the despairing, who brings light into the darkness and blesses us each day.

ALL: Let us worship God!**

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

During this time of Lent, O God

You call us to loose the bonds of injustice

To let the oppressed go free, to break every yoke.

Lead us in this work of Peace,

For the time is now...

And we are here, O God!^{###} 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

Merciful God, what a gentle and healing balm it is to come to you with our secret thoughts, our sad discouragements, and our noblest dreams, and find you here to listen, to forgive, and to renew us! We confess our reluctance to understand your will and our hesitancy to act

upon it. We are quick to blame others and slow to accept responsibility for ourselves. We wish for signs of your power even while we take for granted the beauty and love with which you have surrounded us. We desire some guarantee of your favor and, at the same time, shudder to think about the suffering of the cross and what it portends for us and for our world. Submerge us in your Spirit, and grant us faith to perceive good arising from evil and sense your immediate presence within the solitudes of endless space.*** 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Karlee Etter

PSALM 25

V752

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Genesis 9:8-17

Page 7

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh, and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Mark 1:9-15 Page 1190

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

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

GIFT OF MUSIC: *Lead Me, Lord*

Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)

Sung by the Chancel Choir

*Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness;
make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord, only,
that makest me dwell in safety.*

SERMON: "Singing Sad Songs"

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:** "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

V291

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

*Those who are able, please stand.

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We welcome **Paul Thoma** as our substitute organist this morning.

Deacons are Carol Amico and Peter Hall.

Scripture Reader is Susan Compton. **Greeter** is Beth Anderson.

Fellowship Hour will be in Carroll Hall following service.

Today's flowers are given by Sue and John in loving memory of our beloved son Dino, who began his new life in heaven 22 years ago. Our love for you is forever.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Victoria Hummel 02/19, Kristin Bengtson 02/19, Kathleen Mickolyzck 02/21, Jesse Morrow 02/22, Amy Morrow 02/22, Eben Stewart 02/23, Florence Klemenz 02/24.

Communications Coffee Hour

Come join us on Sunday February 25th after Worship to celebrate the accomplishments of the Communications Mission Team and plan for the future.

St Patrick's Day Dinner Sunday March 10, 3:00 p.m.

Adults, \$17; children under 12, \$7.

Corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, Irish soda bread, dessert, and coffee and tea!

Reservations and payment **MUST** be made before March 4, by calling the church office (203 239-5691). Payment may be made by check, online, or in person; Venmo accepted.

Takeout also available; must be under reservation and prepaid. Available for pickup after 4:00 p.m. Come join us!

Mission Team Spotlight

This week our Mission Team Spotlight is Building & Grounds (B&G). This team is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of both the church and the parsonage. If you have any related skills or are interested in helping in a project, contact one of the B&G members which include Martin Benassi, Mark Bessette, Ed Collette, David Nelson, Paul Powers, Betsey Reid, and Peter Struk. They meet the second Tuesday of the month in person at 12 noon at the church.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	2/18	9:30 a.m.	WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream)
Monday	2/19	9:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	PRESIDENT'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED Music Together (DBL) CT Record Club (K)
Tuesday	2/20	9:30 a.m. 9:30 12:00 p.m. 12:00 6:00	Al-Anon (K) Music Together (DBL) PLP (L) BUILDING & GROUNDS (H) Bible Study (Zoom)
Wednesday	2/21	9:30 a.m. 9:30 10:30 6:00 p.m. 7:00	WINDOW DEADLINE Music Together (DBL) FOOD PANTRY OPEN Music Together (DBL) Girl Scout Troop 60071 (K) MLB (L)
Thursday	2/22	7:00 p.m.	CHANCEL CHOIR
Friday	2/23	9:30 a.m. 9:30 10:30	Music Together (DBL) FOOD PANTRY OPEN Music Together (DBL)
Saturday	2/24	9:30 a.m. 10:30 1:00 p.m.	Music Together (DBL) Music Together (DBL) Girl Scouts: Our World, Our Thriving Future
Sunday	2/25	9:30 a.m.	WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream)

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

*OPENING HYMN: "Forty Days and Forty Nights"

V114

Dm A7 Dm Gm A Dm Am Dm6 E A

1 For - ty days and for - ty nights you were fast - ing in the wild;
 2 Sun - beams scorch - ing all the day, chil - ly dew - drops night - ly shed;
 ♦ 3 Shall not we your tri - al share, and from earth - ly joys ab - stain,
 4 If temp - ta - tions, vex - ing sore, flesh or spir - it should as - sail,
 5 Keep, oh keep us, Sav - iour dear, ev - er con - stant by your side;

D Gm C F C Dm Am A Dm

for - ty days and for - ty nights tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed.
 prowl - ing beasts a - bout your way; stones your pil - low, earth your bed.
 ♦ fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, strong with you to suf - fer pain?
 you their van - quish - er be - fore, grant we may not faint nor fail.
 that with you we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

To you, O God, I lift my soul, to you I lift my soul.

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To you, O God, I lift my soul; my God, in you I trust.
 Let me not be put to shame, nor let my foes gloat over me.

Let none who wait for you be shamed;
 let them be shamed who wantonly break faith.

Show me your ways; teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me;
 for you are God my saviour.

For you I wait all the day long. R

Remember your mercy, O God, and your steadfast love,
 for they are as old as time.

Do not remember the sins and offences of my youth.

According to your steadfast love remember me,
 for your goodness' sake, O God! R

You are upright, and good, O God,
 therefore you show the path to those who go astray.

You guide the humble to do what is right,
 and teach the lowly your way.

All your ways are loving and sure

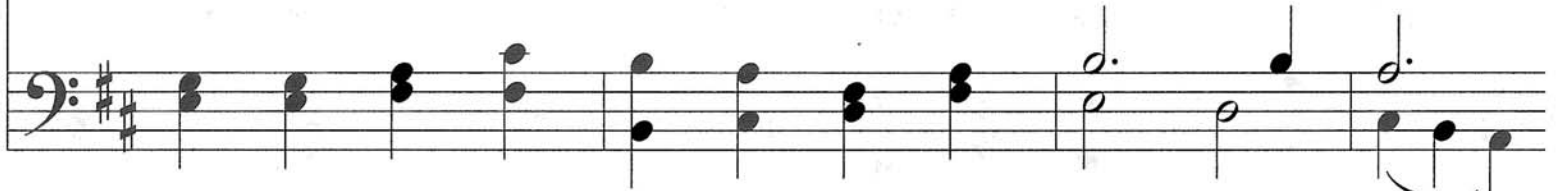
for those who keep your covenant and commandments. R



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - iour's love to me, love
 2 He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be - stow, but
 3 Some - times they strew his way, and his sweet prais - es sing, re -
 4 Here might I stay and sing, no sto - ry so div - ine; nev -



to the love - less shown that they might love - ly be.
 peo - ple scorned, and none the longed - for Christ would know.
 sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King.
 er was love, dear King, nev - er was grief like thine!



O who am I that for my sake
 But O my Friend, my Friend in - deed,
 Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath,
 This is my friend, in whose sweet praise



my Lord should take frail flesh, and die?
 who at my need his life did spend!
 and for his death they thirst and cry.
 I all my days could glad - ly spend.



*CLOSING HYMN: "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

V291

Refrain (Unison)

*All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea - tures great and small,

all things wise and won - der - ful: in love, God made them all.

1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
 2 The pur - ple - head - ed moun - tains, the riv - er run - ning by,
 ♦ 3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas - ant sum - mer sun,
 4 The rock - y moun - tain splen - dour, the lone wolf's haunt - ing call,
 5 God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

God made their glow - ing col - ours, God made their ti - ny wings.
 the sun - set and the morn - ing that bright - ens up the sky;
 ♦ the ripe fruits in the gar - den: God made them ev - ery one.
 the great lakes and the prair - ies, the for - est in the fall;
 how great is God our mak - er, who has made all things well.

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