

FOUNDED 1716
North Haven
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



BETHLEHEM

North Haven, Connecticut
An Open & Affirming Congregation

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

Sunday, December 8, 2024

9:30 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *Dimanche de l'Avent*

Chauvet

***OPENING HYMN:** "People, Look East"

V9

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: A tiny jewel of light dances on the edge of the horizon:
a solitary star before sunrise glimmers a promise of dawn
at the end of the world's blight.

**PEOPLE: It is the light of the World, "Emmanuel"
(God-with-us), the Promised One.
Come to us, Emmanuel!
We have seen your light and gather here
awaiting the day of your coming.****

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

We dream God's dream, of a world at peace
Where enemies are reconciled, and children play in safety;
Where the poor and powerless find justice.

We remember God's promise of a Ruler of Peace,
Filled with the Spirit of God, of wisdom and understanding,
Of counsel and might, of justice and faithfulness.

We light this Advent candle, and we pray:
Come Lord Jesus!

Open our lives to the Peace which you bring;
let us turn to you, and get ready!## Amen.

John W. Howell

***AN ADVENT SONG OF PRAISE**

V882

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:~*unison*

God of the loving heart, we confess before you those places in our hearts where we have refused you entrance: people we have refused to love; habits we never got around to changing; good things we have left undone; and ways in which we hurt you, ourselves, and others. Come to us in the light of your Christ. Shine on those places we have hidden from you. Show us new ways to live. Sweep clean the rooms of our hearts, that Christ may find a home among us. Be known among us now and forever!** Amen.

Ruth C. Duck

~ *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 2:1-7

The Jennings Family

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirin'i-us was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Lighting the **BETHLEHEM** Candle

Hanging the **BETHLEHEM** Ornament

Prayer *unison*

Dear Father, we praise you for giving us Jesus to show us the way of faith and love. We pray that this Advent Season, Christmas Day, and throughout the coming year we will walk in the way that Jesus taught us. Amen.

Sung Response: “ O Little Town of Bethlehem” v.1 V64

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Malachi 3:1-4 Page 877

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like washers’ soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord, as in the days of old and as in former years.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

* **HYMN:** “On Jordan’s Bank” V20

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 3:1-6 Page 1205

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;

make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth,

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

GIFT OF MUSIC: *Call to Advent*

A quodlibet on Picardy and Veni Emanuel

By J. Jerome Williams

Sung by Chancel Choir

SERMON: “Prophetic Endurance”

Scott Morrow

PASTORAL CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Choral Response

THE OFFERTORY *The Journey to Bethlehem*

Franck

*Advent Doxology

Tune: Irby

Praise to God, the one_ who made us. Praise to Christ, God's on - ly_

4
son. Praise the Spi - rit, ev - er_ with us. Praise the God - head, Three in_

8
One. Clear a path! Pre - pare the way! Ad - vent leads to Christ-mas Day!

*Prayer of Dedication

GREETING OF PEACE ~unison

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

***CLOSING HYMN:** “Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates” Insert

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

Rohlig

*Those who are able, please stand.

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Special thanks to guest organist and good friend of the church, Gail DeBoer, for sharing her musical gifts with us this morning

Deacon is Sandy Carter. **Scripture Reader** is Ted Manzo. **Greeters** are Kelly Dacey and Beth Anderson.

Today's flowers are given by Tom and Wendy Glynn in loving memory of Wendy's dad, Richard Jahoda, who found peace in the loving arms of our Lord 25 years ago. Words cannot express how much he is missed.

In Our Prayers This Week are: Linda Rankin, Linda Shannon, Marlene Bellonio, Shirley Ryan, Joyce Bellonio, Meg Adams, Herb & Ann Schneider, and Sarah.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: James Studley 12/08, Emma Mickolyzck 12/09, Merrilee Gladkosky 12/11, Linda Silk 12/14, Carol Mitchell 12/15.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: Sally & Anthony Pallatto 12/14.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Special Offering for the Christmas Fund

The Christmas Fund is a special offering of the United Church of Christ which has provided assistance to UCC clergy and lay employees for more than 100 years. The Christmas Fund provides pension supplementation of pension and health insurance to lower-income retired clergy and lay employees, as well as a modest Christmas "thank-you" gift check and emergency assistance grants to a small number of active clergy and lay employees. This offering will be received on Sunday, Dec. 22nd, and at the services on Christmas Eve. Please give prayerfully and generously!

Covenant to Care

Now that Thanksgiving is in the rear view mirror, it's time to look ahead to Advent and Christmas. Our church will again this year supply gifts for children less fortunate than ourselves. The Angel Tree will be in Carroll Hall at fellowship hour on Sunday December 8, 2024.

Children's names and ages and a "wish list" will be on ornaments on the tree. If you would like to participate, please select a child and write your name and the child's name on the provided sign up sheet. Please have your wrapped gifts to the church by Tuesday December 17, 2024.

If you would like to give a monetary gift, please submit a check to the church office with "Angel Tree" written in the memo line. The money will be used to supply other gifts for children.

This has been a beloved project in our church for many years. Let's provide a little joy in a child's heart at this beautiful time of year.

Special Music Collection For Musicians At Christmas

We are very grateful to those church folks who have given to our holiday special music collections in the past. This money goes directly toward funding guest musicians such as trumpeters, flutists, and string players on Christmas and Easter. We are hoping to hire a flutist and a cellist to augment the beauty of this year's 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service. If you can donate regularly to this ministry, we are most grateful, as it is a year round collection. The pink music collection envelopes will be in the pews during Advent. It is important that we compensate our guest musicians fairly and at current professional rates. Thanks again to all who have made this possible over the years.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------|---|---|
| Sunday | 12/8 | 9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m. | WORSHIP: Second Sunday of Advent ADVENT NIGHT (CH) |
| Monday | 12/9 | 1:00 p.m. 5:00 | FOOD PANTRY OPEN New Haven Camera Club (CH) |
| Tuesday | 12/10 | 9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 3:30 4:30 5:15 6:00 | Al-Anon (K) PLP BUILDING & GROUNDS (H) United Girls Choir (Sanct, K) Pierpont Hill (CH) Pastoral Relations (Zoom) Bible Study (Zoom) |
| Wednesday | 12/11 | 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 5:15 7:00 7:00 | FOOD PANTRY OPEN Danish Sisterhood (CH) COMMUNICATION MT (Zoom) Al-Anon District Family (CH) MLB (L) |
| Thursday | 12/12 | 7:00 p.m. 7:00 | Garden Club (CH) CHANCEL CHOIR |
| Friday | 12/13 | 10:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 | FOOD PANTRY OPEN Al-Ateen (CH) Danish Brotherhood (K) |
| Saturday | 12/14 | 2:00 p.m. 3:00 | HOLIDAY REMEMBRANCE SERVICE Tibetan American (K, CR) |
| Sunday | 12/15 | 9:30 a.m. 3:00 p.m. 6:00 | WORSHIP: Third Sunday of Advent Music Together: Jingle Jam (Sanct) CONFIRMATION (K) |

*Small print indicates non-Church function

Bold print starts new day.

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, Sexton

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 plant - ed there:
 guard the nest 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:

Descant

5 All praise e - ter - nal Son, whose

1 On Jor - dan's bank, the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; make
 3 In you, we find a - bun - dant life, our
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose

ad - vent has our free - dom won; and praise to God whom

noun - ces that the Lamb is nigh; a - wake and hear - ken,
 straight the way for God with - in; and let each heart pre -
 ◆ ref - uge in the midst of strife; with - out your grace we
 help us rise to fall no more. O let your face up -
 ad - vent has our free - dom won; and praise to God whom

we a - dore for - ev - er - more.

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of Kings.
 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
 ◆ waste a - way, like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine, and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, with Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

***CLOSING HYMN:** “Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates” Insert



1 Lift up your heads, O might-y gates; be-hold the glo - rious Rul - er waits!
2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a tem - ple, set a - part
3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to you; here, Christ, a - bide!
4 So come, my Sov-ereign; en - ter in! Let new and no - bler life be - gin;



The Sov-ereign One is draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
From earth - ly use for heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
Let me your in - ner pres - ence feel; your grace and love in me re - veal.
Your Ho - ly Spir - it guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.



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.

Saturday,
December 14, 2024
at 2:00 p.m.

North Haven
Congregational Church
28 Church Street
North Haven, CT 06473



R.S.V.P. Appreciated by December 7th
(203) 288-0800

Anyone who has lost a loved one is welcome

Holiday Remembrance Service

We will hold a Holiday Remembrance Service, in collaboration with the Beecher & Bennett Funeral Home, on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 2pm. The experience of loss and bereavement can be complicated in the Christmas season. This Holiday Remembrance Service is an opportunity to acknowledge feelings of loss and grief in the context of Advent and Christmas. The service will be held in the sanctuary with scripture readings, prayers, and hymns. Jeffrey Hutchins, Director of Music, and Heather Meachen, Organist, will join Scott and staff from Beecher & Bennett in leading the service. The Chancel Choir will sing! The service will last an hour, and there will be reception in Carroll Hall with coffee and cookies afterward. This service is open to the public; Beecher & Bennett will invite families they have served this year and we will offer a special invitation to those church members who have experienced a loss.

This service is an annual tradition for Beecher & Bennett. Beecher & Bennett staff will read a list of names of those being remembered, and provide an ornament personalized with the name of the person which can be hung on a Christmas tree in the sanctuary as part of the service. There will also be a video tribute to those being remembered. **If you wish to remember someone during the service, please call the Beecher & Bennett Funeral Home at 203-288-0800 to RSVP by Dec. 7.** They will ask for the name of your loved one, their dates, and a photo. They will help you to find a photo from a published obituary if you wish. They will provide an ornament at the service which you may keep afterward.

Please contact Scott or call the Church Office with any questions.