

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, January 12, 2025

9:30 a.m.

**First Sunday after Epiphany
The Baptism of Christ
The Noisy Offering**

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *Andante*

by Anton Bruckner

***OPENING HYMN:** “How Firm a Foundation”

V660

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: We enter this place of worship in search of a light to guide our way.

PEOPLE: We seek to exchange the ashes of mourning for the garland of joy.

Leader: We come because we have seen the light afar off and desire to come closer.

PEOPLE: We want to join with others in walking in the light so we may enjoy true human communion.

Leader: We worship that our light may shine and draw others to God’s light.

ALL: In Christ, the light has come into the world, the bright expression of God among us. Let us worship God!**

David B. Bowman

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

O God, maker of all things new, You call us...Your servants... to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untraveled, through perils and joys still unknown.

Give us faith, O God, to do all we are called to with courage, with hearts full of hope, with You, bearing your peace, even though we do not know where we will land.

Still, this is our assurance...that Your love holds us and Your hand leads us...always! Through Jesus Christ.## 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*

Holy God, Eternal Spirit, we thank you for baptizing us into one body in Jesus the Christ. Wash over us with your Spirit, that, like Jesus, we may serve you in serving humanity. Baptize us with the fire of your truth, through Jesus Christ.** Amen.

Ruth C. Duck

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 NOISY OFFERING

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Karlee Etter

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 43:1-7

Pg 661

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight and honored and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

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

* **HYMN:** "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

V378

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Pg 1205

As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

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

GIFT OF MUSIC: *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in this Place*

Text & Music by Doris Akers (1962)

Chancel Choir sings verses &

Congregation joins on the refrain:

Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet heavenly Dove, Stay right here with us, filling us with Your love. And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise; Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived, When we shall leave this place.

SERMON: “Through the Waters”

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!

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: *Allegro in F Major*

by W.A. Mozart

*Those who are able, please stand.

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Deacon & Scripture Reader is Jim Bennett. **Greeter** is Beth Anderson.

Join us for **Coffee and Fellowship** in Carroll Hall immediately following our service.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Joyce Bellonio 01/12, Diane Lacobelli 01/15, Joanne Nottingham 01/15, Michael Masnato 01/18, Joseph Mickolyzck 01/19.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: Suzanne & Nigel Light 01/18.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Meeting and Annual Reports – The Annual Meeting of the Congregation is scheduled for Sunday, January 26. Annual Report will be available to pick-up before church on Sunday, January 19.

Pancake Breakfast– Sunday, January 19th after worship
NHCC Women’s and Men’s Fellowships invite you to attend a Pancake Breakfast fundraiser, Free Will Offering. Proceeds will go to the Parking Lot Project.

Serving: Pancakes, Sausage, Fruit, Yogurt, Coffee, and Juice.

40th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Breakfast on Jan.15

The Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast sponsored by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Heritage Foundation of Branford, will be held on Monday, January 20, at 8:30am at Branford High School. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Jeffrey C. Stewart, a professor of Black Studies at the University of California Santa Barbara and Pulitzer Prize winning author. Dr. Stewart will speak on “Nonviolence Now More Than Ever”, centering on Dr. King’s commitment to peaceful protest. The event is moderated by Keith Kountz of Channel 8, catered by the BHS Culinary Arts Program, with music by the BHS Music Makers. Proceeds of the event provide scholarships for BHS students who embody the spirit of Dr. King. Tickets to the event are \$20 or \$5 for students.

Tickets are limited. For tickets go to:

<https://events.eventgroove.com/event/2025-Mlk-Breakfast-Jeffrey-C-Stewart-103201>. For more information go to [Facebook.com/MLKHeritageFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/MLKHeritageFoundation) or email MLKHeritageFoundation@gmail.com.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	1/12	9:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m.	WORSHIP: The Baptism of Christ Music Together (DBL)
Monday	1/13	9:30 a.m. 10:30 1:00 p.m.	Music Together (DBL) Music Together (DBL) FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Tuesday	1/14	9:30 a.m. 9:30 10:30 12:00 p.m. 12:00 3:30 5:30 6:00 7:00	Al-Anon (K) Music Together (DBL) Music Together (DBL) PLP (CH) BUILDING & GROUNDS (H) United Girls Choir (CH, Sanct, K) Girl Scout Troop 60071 BIBLE STUDY (Zoom) PARKING LOT CAMPAIGN (L)
Wednesday	1/15	9:30 a.m. 10:00 10:30 7:00	Music Together (DBL) FOOD PANTRY OPEN Music Together (DBL) MLB (L)
Thursday	1/16	5:30 p.m. 7:00	Girl Scout Troop 60151(K) CHANCEL CHOIR
Friday	1/17	9:30 a.m. 10:00 10:30	Music Together (DBL) FOOD PANTRY OPEN Music Together (DBL)
Saturday	1/18	8:00 a.m. 9:30 10:30 3:00 p.m.	MENS FELLOWSHIP Music Together (DBL) Music Together (DBL) Tibetan American (K, CR)
Sunday	1/19	9:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m.	WORSHIP: Second Sunday after the Epiphany PANCAKE BREAKFAST (CH) Music Together (DBL)

*Small print indicates non-Church function

Bold print starts new day.

*OPENING HYMN: "How Firm a Foundation"

V660

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, you ser - vants of God,
 2 "Fear not, I am with you; O be not dis - mayed!
 ♦ 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call you to go,
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent word!
 For I am your God and will still give you aid;
 ♦ the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply:
 I will not — I will not de - sert to his foes;

What more can be said than to you has been said,
 I'll strength - en and help you, and cause you to stand,
 ♦ for I will be with you, your trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - our to shake,

to you who for re - fuge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous om - ni - po - tent hand.
 ♦ and sanc - ti - fy to you your deep - est dis - tress.
 your dross to con - sume, and your gold to re - fine.
 I'll nev - er — no, nev - er — no, nev - er for - sake!"

* HYMN: "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

V378

Descant

4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

Bb F7 Bb Eb Bb Cm7 F7 Bb

1 Spi - rit of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - cies,
 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame,

Gm A Dm G7 F Gm/C C7 F

wear it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength and mind?
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame,

the bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed dove,

F Eb F7 Gm F7 Eb F7

stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - pening skies,
 I see your cross: there teach my heart to cling.
 the bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed dove,

my heart an al - tar and your love the flame.

Bb F Bb Eb Bb Eb Bb F7 Bb

and make me love you as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 O let me seek you and O let me find!
 my heart an al - tar and your love the flame.

GIFT OF MUSIC: *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in this Place*

Text & Music by Doris Akers (1962)

Chancel Choir sings verses &
Congregation joins on the refrain:

Congregational Refrain:

Refrain

Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav - en - ly Dove, stay right here

with us, fill - ing us with your love; and for these bless - ings we

lift our hearts in praise; with - out a doubt we'll know that we have

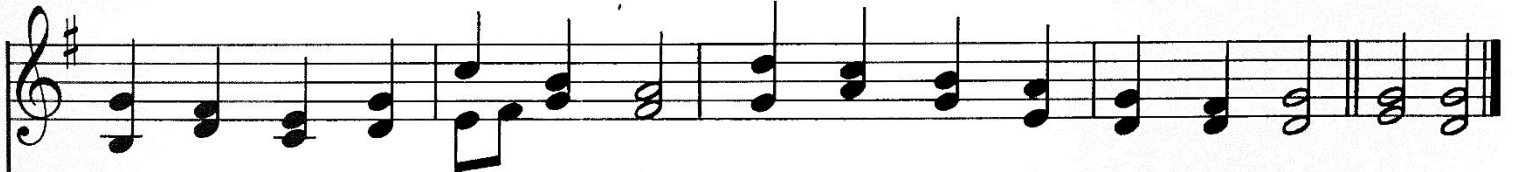
been re - vived when we shall leave this place.

*CLOSING HYMN: "Take My Life and Let It Be"

P404



1 Take my life, and let it be Con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands, and let them move At the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my will, and make it thine; It shall be no long - er mine;
4 Take my love: my Lord I pour At thy feet its treas - ure store;



Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them flow in cease - less praise.
Take my feet, and let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
Take my heart, it is thine own; It shall be thy roy - al throne.
Take my - self, and I will be Ev - er, on - ly, all for thee. A - men.





NHCC Women's and
Men's Fellowships
Invite you to a
PANCAKE+BREAKFAST
Sunday, January 19
After worship
Serving: pancakes, sausage,
fruit, yogurt, coffee, juice
Free Will Offering with
Proceeds going to the
Parking Lot Project

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.