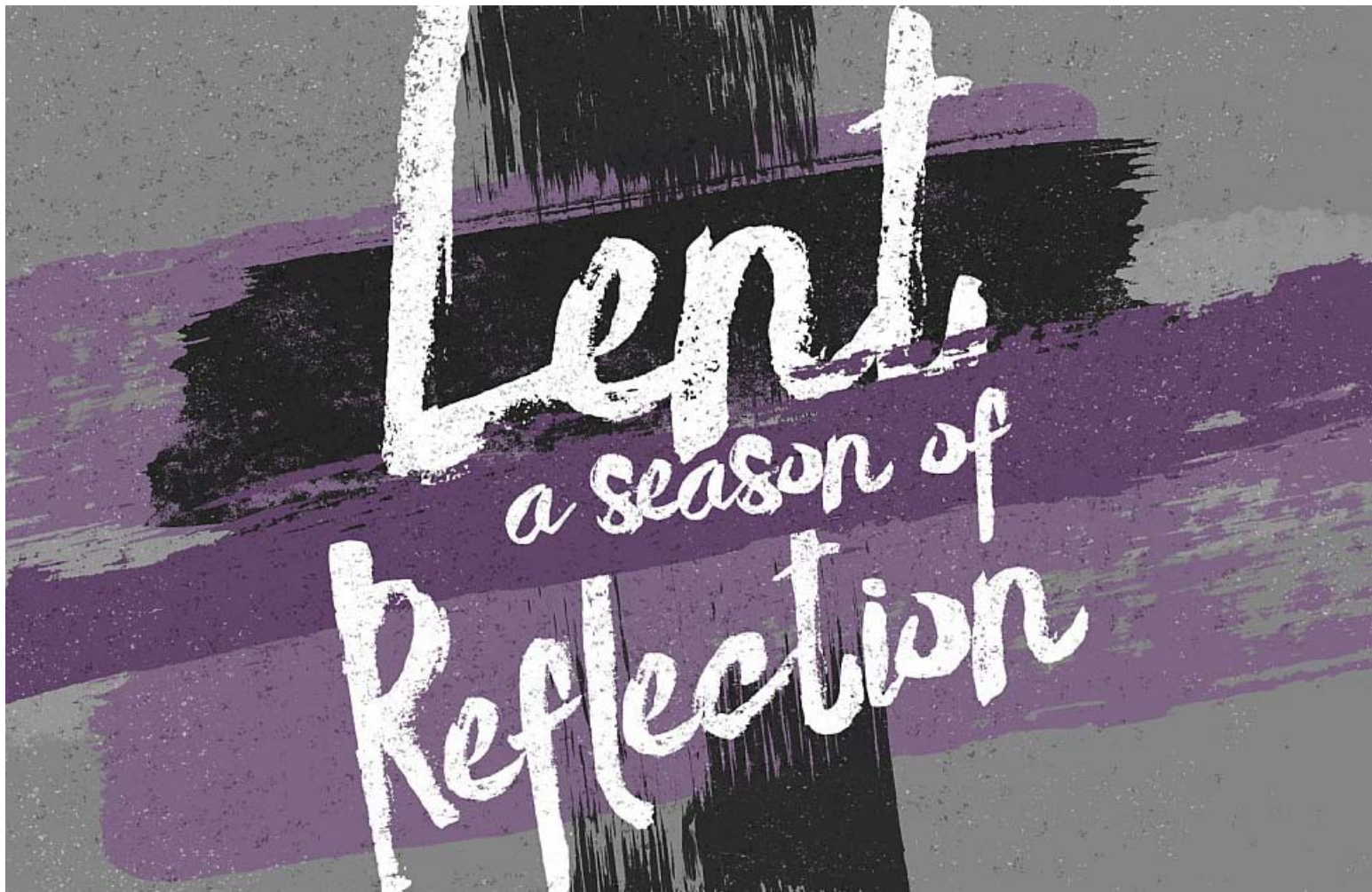


FOUNDED 1716  
*North Haven*  
*Congregational Church*  
United Church of Christ



North Haven, Connecticut  
*An Open & Affirming Congregation*

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

**Sunday, March 9, 2025**

**9:30 a.m.**

**First Sunday in Lent  
The Noisy Offering**

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE:** Prelude in E Minor Frederic Chopin

**\*OPENING HYMN:** "The Living God Be Praised" V255

**\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Friends in Christ, Lent is a time to prepare and to renew our life. We mark this holy season

**PEOPLE: by acknowledging our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel.**

Leader: We are invited, in the name of Christ, to observe holy Lent

**PEOPLE: By self-examination and penitence,  
by prayer and fasting, by works of love,  
and by reading and meditating on the Word of 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.

**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 to sense your immediate presence within the solitude 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.

## **THE NOISY OFFERING**

Karlee Etter

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Karlee Etter

## **PSALM 91**

Insert

## **THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON:** Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Page 180

“When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess and you possess it and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.’ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: ‘A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.’ You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

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

**THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON:** Luke 4:1-13 Page 1205

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over he was famished. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’ ”

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.’ ”

Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’  
and

‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your  
foot against a stone.’ ”

Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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

**GIFT OF MUSIC:** *Spirit, Open My Heart* Text: Ruth Carolyn Duck  
Sung by the Chancel Choir (1947 – 2024)

Tune: Wild Mountain Thyme Music: Alfred Fedak

Refrain: Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living, as you love  
may I love, in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart.

God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender. All my  
coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender.

Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story. In each  
thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory.

May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of sister, brother. In the  
welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another.

**SERMON:** “There’s More to Lent ...”

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:** “As Those of Old Their First-fruits Brought”

V518

\***THE BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE:** Ecossaise in Eb

Ludwig van Beethoven

\*Those who are able, please stand.

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**Deacon** is Sandy Carter. **Scripture Reader** is Susan Compton.

**Greeter** is Beth Anderson.

**Today’s flowers** are given by Sandy Carter, Happy Birthday to my  
beloved grandson Jack on his birthday. Love you forever Grandma  
Sandy.

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **St. Patrick's Day Dinner is March 16th**

Women's and Men's Fellowships are planning the annual St Patrick's Day Dinner to be held on Sunday March 16 at 3 p.m. Once again we need your help. We are in need of some men to volunteer to be in charge of the kitchen to prep and prepare the meal. WF will do the decorating, setup, serving, and cleanup; of course we will need bakers to make Irish soda bread. Please sign up if you would like to help. Sign up sheet is available during fellowship hour. Tickets are on sale —\$18 for adults and free for children under 12. Reservations are required!

### **Lenten Study Begins Today**

We will have a Lenten Study following worship today, and on March 23, April 6 and April 13. We will be reading in *We Make the Road by Walking*, by Brian McLaren. McLaren encourages readers to consider a more active, practical faith that engages the world with hope. Come read, discuss, and pray!

### **Newcomer Discussions on March 16 and 30**

Newcomer Discussions will be held after worship on two Sundays in March – the 16<sup>th</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup> - in the church library. These gatherings are occasions to ask questions and learn about NHCC. The gatherings are hosted by the Deacons, and everyone is welcome. Please let Scott or Julie know if you will be coming.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS\*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3/9</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 10:45	<b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME</b> <b>WORSHIP:</b> First Sunday in Lent LENTEN STUDY (K)
<b>Monday</b>	<b>3/10</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 10:30 1:00 p.m.	<b>Music Together (DBL)</b> Music Together (DBL) Food Pantry
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>3/11</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 9:30 10:30 12:00 p.m. 12:00 3:30 6:00	<b>Al-Anon (K) 10-11:30</b> Music Together (DBL) Music Together (DBL) PLP (CH) New Haven Camera Club (K) United Girls Choir (CH, Sanct, K) BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>3/12</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b> 10:30 5:30 p.m. 7:00	<b>FOOD PANTRY OPEN</b> Music Together (DBL) COMMUNICATIONS (Zoom) MLB (L)
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>3/13</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b> 6:00 7:00 7:00	<b>Girl Scout Troop 60151 (K)</b> PARKING LOT CAMPAIGN (L) Garden Club (CH) CHANCEL CHOIR
<b>Friday</b>	<b>3/14</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 10:00 10:30 5:00 p.m. 7:00	<b>Music Together (DBL)</b> FOOD PANTRY OPEN Music Together (DBL) Community Supper – St. John’s Danish Brotherhood (K)
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>3/15</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b> 9:30 10:30 11:30 3:00 p.m.	<b>MENS FELLOWSHIP</b> Music Together (DBL) Music Together (DBL) Rhythm Kids (DBL) Tibetan American (K, CR)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3/16</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 10:45 3:00 p.m.	<b>WORSHIP:</b> Second Sunday in Lent NEWCOMERS DISCUSSION (L) ST. PATRICK’S DAY DINNER (CH)

\*Small print indicates non-Church function

**Bold print starts new day.**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Amy Mears 03/12, Ryan Weiss 03/12, Patricia Jennings 03/13.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:** Fran & Cheryl Dutko 3/3, Kerry & Eben Stewart 03/08.

\*OPENING HYMN: *The Living God Be Praised*

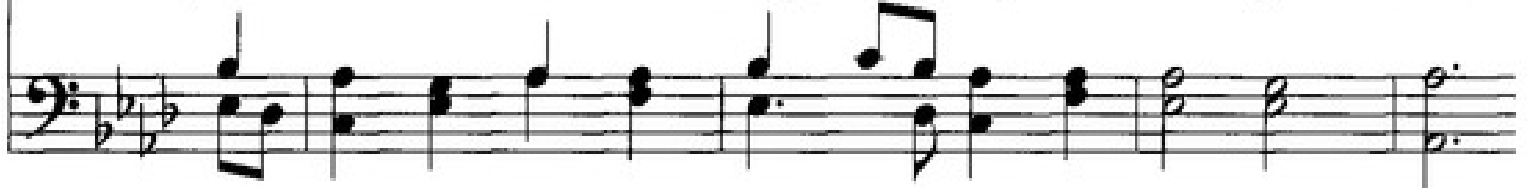
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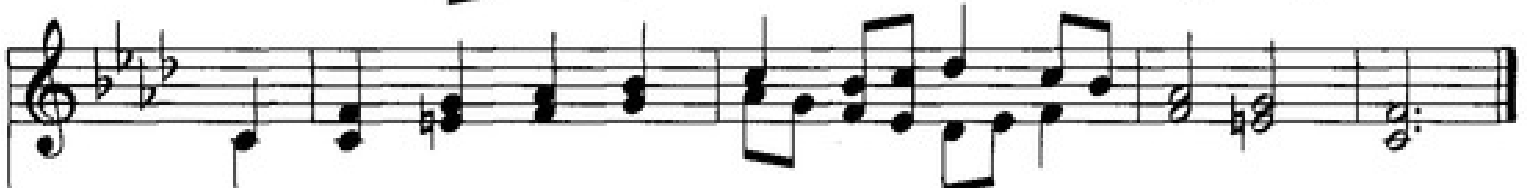
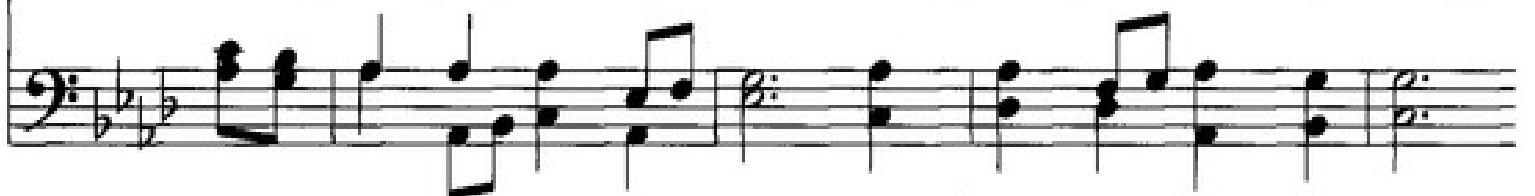
1 The liv - ing God be praised, who reigns en - throned a - bove,  
2 Your spi - rit still flows free, high surg - ing where it will,  
3 You have e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul,



an - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love.  
in pro - phet's words you spoke of old and you speak still.  
your love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.



Je - ho - vah, great I Am! By earth and heaven con - fessed,  
Es - tab - lished is your law, and change - less it shall stand,  
We praise you, liv - ing God! We praise your ho - ly name,



we bow be - fore your ho - ly name, for - ev - er blest.  
in - scribed up - on the hu - man heart, on sea, or land.  
the first, the last, be - yond all thought, and still the same.





# PSALM 91

Response

Antiphon: David Hurd, 1994

Unison



My ref - uge and my for - tress, my God in whom I trust.

*R*

<sup>1</sup>You who live in the shelter of  
the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of  
the Almighty, <sup>2</sup>will say to God,

“My refuge and my fortress;  
my God, in whom I trust.”

<sup>9</sup>Because you have made God  
your refuge,  
the Most High your dwelling place,

<sup>10</sup>no evil shall befall you,  
no scourge come near your tent. *R*

<sup>11</sup>For God will command God’s angels  
concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways.

<sup>12</sup>On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot  
against a stone.

<sup>13</sup>You will tread on the lion  
and the adder,  
the young lion and the serpent  
you will trample under foot.

<sup>14</sup>Those who love me, I will deliver;  
I will protect those who know  
my name.

<sup>15</sup>When they call to me,  
I will answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble,  
I will rescue them and honor them.

<sup>16</sup>With long life I will satisfy them,  
and show them my salvation. *R*

Chords: 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;

Chords: D Gm C F C Dm Am A Dm

for - ty days and for - ty nights tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed.  
 prowling 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.

**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.

**\*CLOSING HYMN: *As Those of Old Their First-fruits Brought* V518**



1 As those of old their first-fruits brought of vine-yard, flock, and field  
2 A world in need now summons us to labour, love, and give,  
3 *vel* With grat-i-tude and humble trust we bring our best to you,



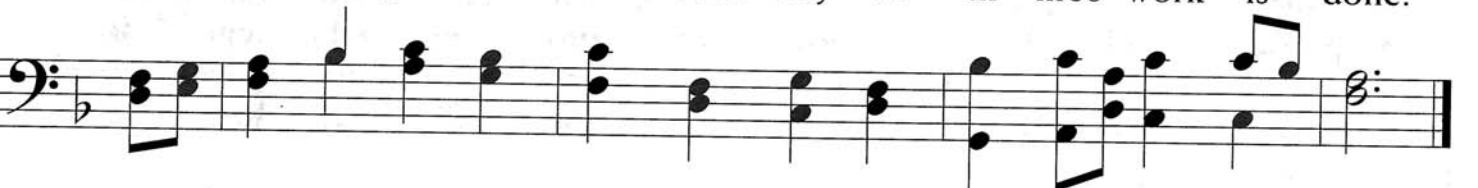
to God, the giv-er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,  
to make our life an of-fer-ing to God, that all may live.  
not just to serve your cause, but share your love with neigh-bours too.



so we to-day our first-fruits bring: the wealth of this good land,  
The church of Christ is call-ing us to make the dream come true:  
O God, who gave your-self to us in Je-sus Christ, your son,



of farm and mar-ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.  
a world re-deemed, by Christ-like love, all life in Christ made new.  
help us to give our-selves each day un-til life's work is done.





# Sunday March 16 at 3 p.m.

Once again we need your help. Please sign up if you would like to help.

- Volunteers to be in charge of the kitchen to prep and prepare the meal.
- Bakers to make Irish soda bread.

Sign up sheet is available during fellowship hour.

Tickets are on sale—\$18 for adults and free for children under 12.

Reservations are required!

