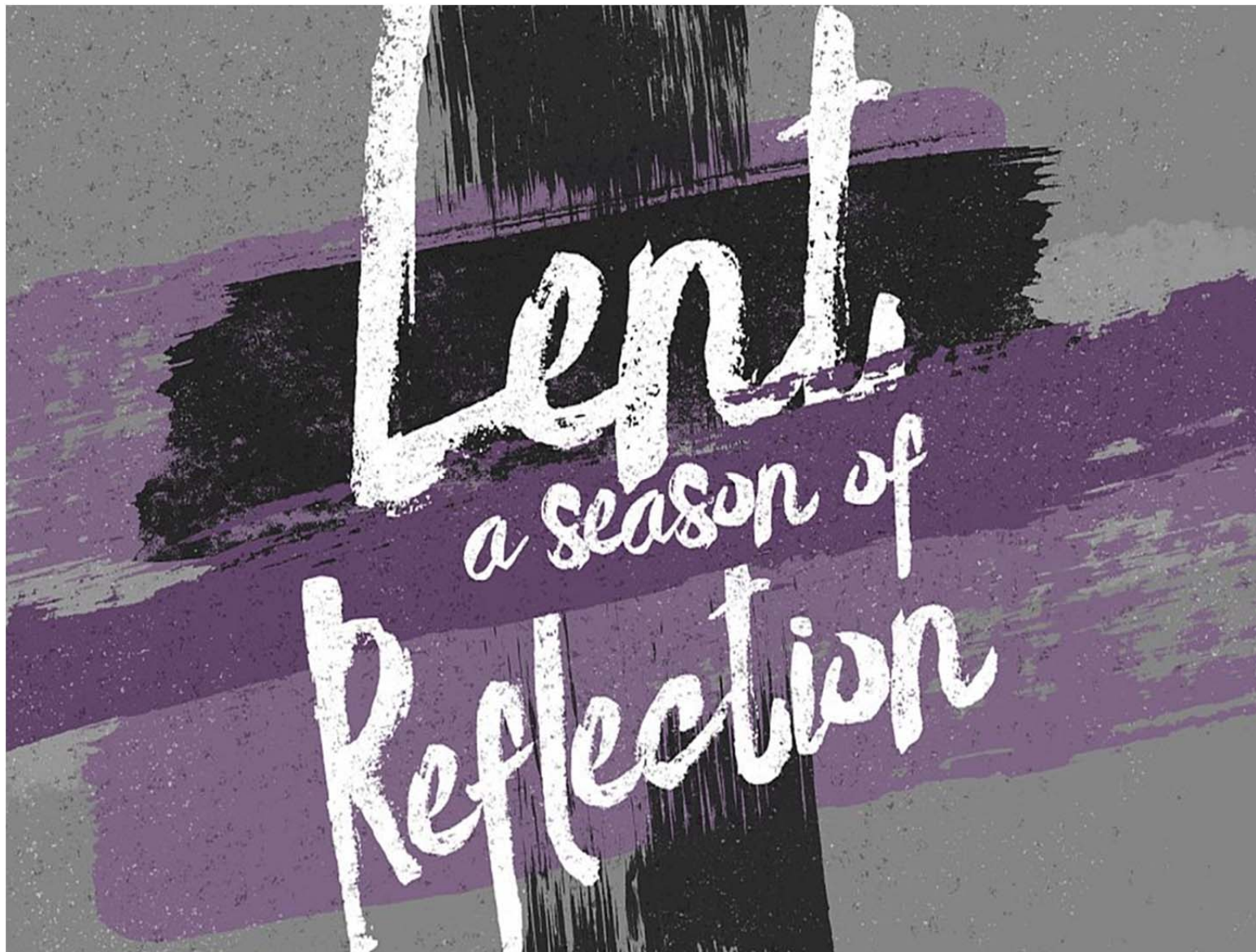


FOUNDED 1716  
*North Haven*  
*Congregational Church*  
United Church of Christ



North Haven, Connecticut  
*An Open & Affirming Congregation*

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

**Sunday, March 16, 2025**

**9:30 a.m.**

**Second Sunday in Lent**

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE:** Prelude in C Major

Jaak Nikolaas Lemmens

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

V660

**\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: We gather this day to worship our God, whose words and ways challenge us.

**PEOPLE: God invites us to lose our selfishness to find ourselves.**

Leader: God calls us to be fools in the world to show forth the wisdom of Christ.

**PEOPLE: God urges us to empty ourselves to discover life’s fullness.**

Leader: God bids us to be obedient to a divine will so we might know true freedom.

**PEOPLE: We come to worship our Creator, seeking to have our faith challenged into growth.**

Leader: We root our faith in worship, seeking to find nourishment for our spirits in this growing season of Lent.

**ALL: Let us worship God!\*\***

*Glen E. Rainsley*

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

Creator, open our hearts to peace and healing between all people.

Creator, open our hearts to provide and protect  
for all children of the earth.

Creator, open our hearts to respect for the earth,  
and all the gifts of the earth.

Creator, open our hearts to end exclusion, violence,  
and fear among all.

Thank-you for the gifts of this day and every day.## Amen.

Native American - Micmac - Alycia Longriver – 1995

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION:~unison**

God of compassion, you know how we rebel against you. You know how we doubt and fear and hold back, when you call us to freedom and to partnership in Jesus Christ.

God, forgive us. Free us by the power of your cross, that we may serve you without fear. Grant us your peace through Jesus Christ who was faithful to the end.\*\* Amen. ~ *silence* ~ *Ruth C. Duck*

## **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 27 (The Lord Is My Light)**

Insert

## **THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Pg 11**

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord, and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other, but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates,

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

\* **HYMN:** “All My Hope is Firmly Grounded” V654

**THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON:** Philippians 3:17-4:1 Pg 1340

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

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

\* **HYMN:** “Be Thou My Vision” V 642

**SERMON:** “Intuitive Christianity” 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:** “Lead On, O Cloud of Presence”

V421

**\*THE BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE:** *Pastorale*

Eugenie Rocherolle

\*Those who are able, please stand.

\*\* Reprinted by permission of the publisher from *Touch Holiness*, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. Copyright © 2012 The Pilgrim Press.

## **WORLD PRAYERS** –[www.worldprayers.org](http://www.worldprayers.org) - retrieved 9/4/15

Music reprinted and streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-719615. All rights reserved.

**Deacon & Scripture Reader** is Jim Bennett.

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**St. Patrick’s Day Dinner is Today!**

Women’s and Men’s Fellowships are hosting the annual St Patrick’s Day Dinner today at 3 p.m. Tickets are on sale —\$18 for adults and free for children under 12. Reservations are required!

**Newcomer Discussions Today and on March 30**

Newcomer Discussions will be held after worship on today and on 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.

**Lenten Study Continues March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Our Lenten Study will continue following worship 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!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS\*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3/16</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 10:45 12:00 p.m. 3:00	<b>WORSHIP:</b> Second Sunday in Lent NEWCOMERS DISCUSSION (L) FOOD DELIVERY ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER (CH)
<b>Monday</b>	<b>3/17</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 10:30 1:00 p.m. 6:00	<b>Music Together (DBL)</b> Music Together (DBL) Food Pantry CT Record Club (K)
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>3/18</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 12:00 p.m. 3:30 6:00	<b>Al-Anon (K) 10-11:30</b> PLP (CH) United Girls Choir (CH, Sanct, K) BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>3/19</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b> 5:30 p.m. 7:00	<b>FOOD PANTRY OPEN</b> PASTORAL RELATIONS (Zoom) AL-Anon District Family (K)
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>3/20</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>CHANCEL CHOIR</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>3/21</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>FOOD PANTRY OPEN</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>3/22</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b> 3:00 p.m. 5:00	<b>Birthday Party Cooking (Kitchen)</b> Tibetan American (K, CR) Birthday Party (CH)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3/23</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 10:45	<b>WORSHIP:</b> Third Sunday in Lent LENTEN STUDY(K)

\*Small print indicates non-Church function

**Bold print starts new day.**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Joseph Mulvey 03/17, Jeffrey Jennings 03/18, Hunter Coughlin 03/20, Ann Schneider 03/21, Lynn Lafleur 03/23.

### **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.

\*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!"

# PSALM 27 (The Lord Is My Light)

Insert



1. The Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion, the



Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion, the Lord is my



light and my sal - va - tion; whom shall I fear?

God is my light and my salvation, whom then shall I fear?

**God is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?**

When the wicked close in to devour me,

**it is they, my enemies and my foes, who stumble and fall.**

If an army should encamp against me,

my heart shall not be afraid;

**if war should arise against me,**

**even then I will not be dismayed. R**

One thing I have asked of God, for which I long:

that I may dwell in God's house all the days of my life,

**to gaze on your beauty, O God,**

**and to seek you in your temple.**

For in the time of trouble you will give me shelter;

**you will hide me under the cover of your tent,**

**you will set me high upon a rock.**

And now you have raised my head

above my enemies round about me.

**Therefore I will offer in your dwelling**

**a sacrifice with great gladness. R**

Hear my voice, O God, when I call; have mercy and answer me.

Your face, O God, I seek.

**Do not hide your face from me;**

**do not reject your servant in anger,**

**you who have been my helper.**

Do not cast me off, or forsake me, O God my saviour.

**Though my father and mother forsake me,**

**my God will take me up. R**

Teach me your way, O God,

**lead me on a level path, safe from those who lie in wait for me.**

Do not give me up to the will of my enemies,

**for liars and false witnesses arise against me.**

I believe that I shall see God's goodness

in the land of the living.

**Wait for God; be strong, and take courage;**

**yes, wait for God! R**



\* HYMN: "All My Hope is Firmly Grounded"

V654

Unison

1 All my hope is firm - ly ground - ed in our great and  
 2 Tell me, who can trust our na - ture, hu - man, weak, and  
 3 But in ev - ery time and sea - son, out of love's a -  
 4 Thank, O thank, our great Cre - a - tor, through God's on - ly

liv - ing Lord; who, when - ev - er I most need him, nev - er  
 in - se - cure? Which of all the air - y cas - tles can the  
 bun - dant store, God sus - tains the whole cre - a - tion, fount of  
 Son this day; God a - lone, the heav - en - ly pot - ter, made us

fails to keep his word. God I must whol - ly  
 hur - ri - cane en - dure? Built on sand, naught can  
 life for - ev - er - more. We who share earth and  
 out of earth and clay. Quick to heed, strong in

trust, God the ev - er good and just.  
 stand by our earth - ly wis - dom planned.  
 air count on God's un - fail - ing care.  
 deed, God shall all the peo - ple feed.

\* HYMN: "Be Thou My Vision"

V 642

Unison

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O joy of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, my calm in all strife;  
 ♦ 3 Be thou my bat - tle shield, sword for the fight;  
 4 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain emp - ty praise,  
 5 Great God of heav - en, af - ter vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me save that thou art,  
 I ev - er with thee, and thou in my life;  
 ♦ be thou my dig - ni - ty, thou my de - light,  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's sun!

thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
 thou lov - ing par - ent, thy child may I be,  
 ♦ thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tower;  
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing thy pres - ence my light.  
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.  
 ♦ raise thou me heav - en - ward, O power of my power.  
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vis - ion, O rul - er of all.

**\*CLOSING HYMN: "Lead On, O Cloud of Presence"**

V421

C F C C7 F C7 G

1 Lead on, O cloud of Pres - ence, the ex - o - dus is come.  
 2 Lead on, O fier - y Pil - lar, we fol - low yet with fears,  
 3 Lead on, O God of free - dom, and guide us on our way,

G7 C C7 F C G D7 G

In wil - der - ness and des - ert our tribe shall make its home.  
 but we shall come re - joic - ing though joy be born of tears.  
 and help us trust the prom - ise through strug - gle and de - lay.

G7 C C7 F A7 D G

Our slav - ery left be - hind us, new hopes with - in us grow.  
 We are not lost, though wan - dering, for by your light we come,  
 We pray our sons and daugh - ters may jour - ney to that land

G7 C C7 F C G7 G C

We seek the land of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow.  
 and we are still God's peo - ple. The jour - ney is our home.  
 where jus - tice dwells with mer - cy, and love is law's de - mand.

**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



# Today at 3 p.m.

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

## Three ways to donate items from your home

## North Haven Congregational Church



**DONATE NON-PERISHABLE FOOD AND ITEMS TO THE FOOD PANTRY WEEKDAYS 9AM TO 2PM AND SUNDAY MORNINGS**



**DONATE REDEEMABLE CANS AND BOTTLES TO THE CHURCH. WEEKDAYS 9AM TO 2PM AND SUNDAY MORNINGS**



**DONATE CLOTHING, LINENS AND ACCESSORIES. DROP OFF IN THE BLUE BIN BEHIND THE CHURCH, ACROSS FROM THE POLICE STATION**



**NORTH HAVEN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
28 CHURCH STREET  
NORTH HAVEN, CONNECTICUT  
Worship Sunday mornings 9:30 a.m.  
<https://northhavenucc.org/>**