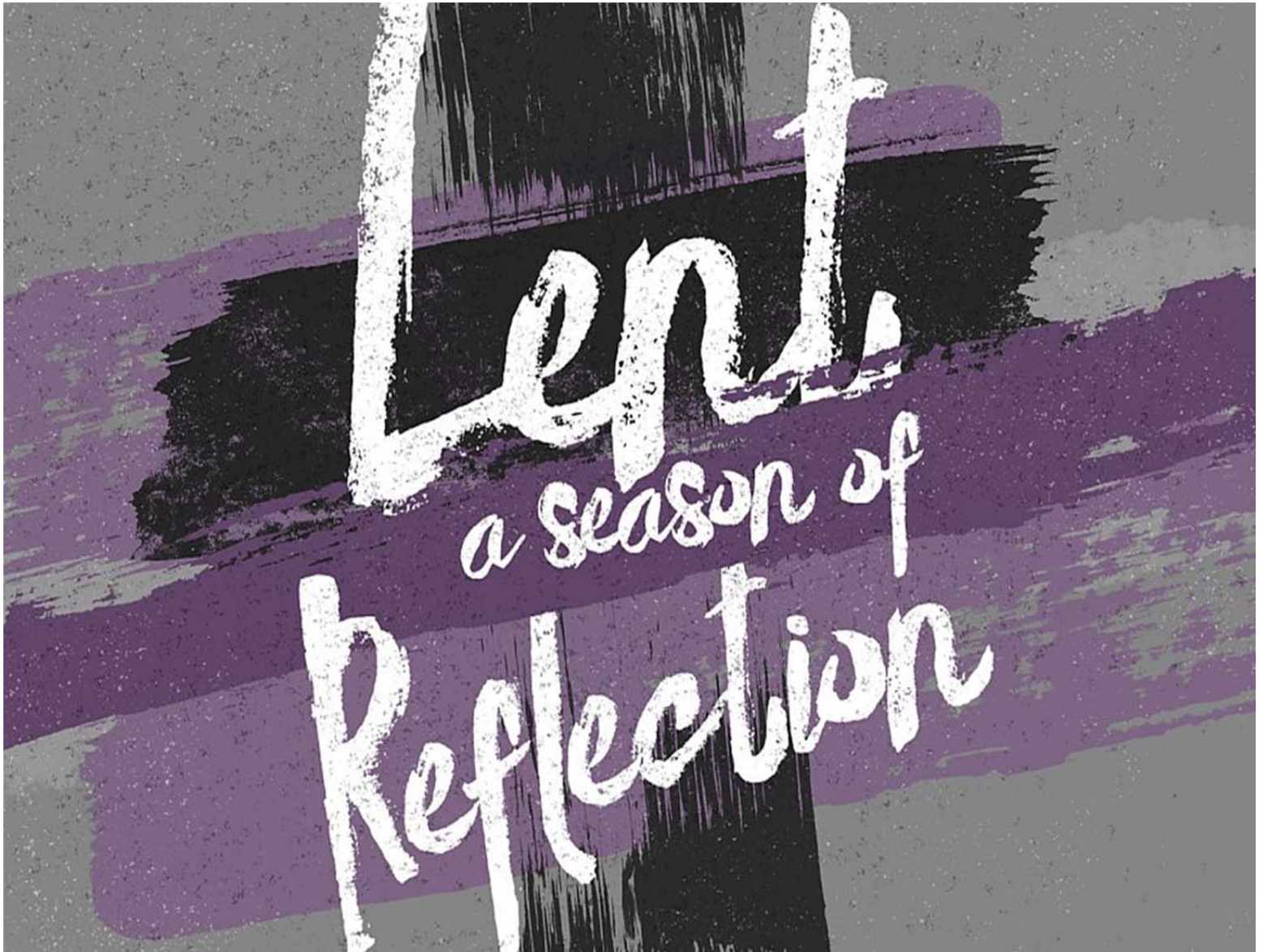


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North Haven
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



North Haven, Connecticut
An Open & Affirming Congregation

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

Sunday, March 23, 2025

9:30 a.m.

**Third Sunday in Lent
The Noisy Offering**

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *Prelude in A Minor*

Jaak Nikolaas Lemmens

***OPENING HYMN:** "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

V651

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: God invites us to journey in the way of faithfulness,

PEOPLE: to walk the Lenten road with Christ.

Leader: We journey with confidence, for Christ is with us.

ALL: Thanks be to God, for God's steadfast love.**

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

O Lord, You love justice and You establish peace on earth. We bring before You the disunity of today's world; the absurd violence, and the many wars, which are breaking the courage of the peoples of the world; human greed and injustice, which breed hatred and strife. Send Your spirit and renew the face of the earth; teach us to be compassionate towards the whole human family; strengthen the will of all those who fight for justice and for peace, and give us that peace which the world cannot give.## Amen. *Rev. Bridget Fidler*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:~unison

Eternal God, from the beginning of time you have called your children into communion with you. Yet we confess that, like all the rest, we have turned to our own way and refused your love and grace. Restore us to the joy of knowing you, and of recognizing your reign among us, through Jesus Christ, bringer of good news.** 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.

THE NOISY OFFERING

Karlee Etter

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Karlee Etter

PSALM 63

V781

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 55:1-9

Page 674

Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.*** HYMN:** "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

V271

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did.”

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the man working the vineyard, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.’ ”

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

GIFT OF MUSIC: *On Eagle's Wings* (Psalm 91)

Words & Music by Michael Joncas
arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Sung by the Chancel Choir

SERMON: “Living Towards God’s Realm”

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:** “Forth in Your Name, O Christ”

V416

*THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *Rock of Ages*

Thomas Hastings

*Those who are able, please stand.

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Rev. Bridget Fidler, worship leader at NHCC 6/7/15.

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Deacon is Peter Hall. **Scripture Reader** is Suzanne Cifelli.
Greeter is Beth Anderson.

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

Highlighting our Mission Teams - This Sunday: Music

The Music Mission Team helps coordinate and support musical events in the life of the church, like Pierpont Concerts. Current membership is Barbara Massey, Carol Mitchell, Catherine Welch, and Music Director Jeff Hutchins.”

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lenten Study Continues Today

Our Lenten Study will continue following worship today and on 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 Discussion on March 30

Newcomer Discussions will be held after worship on the 30th in the church library. This gathering is an occasion to ask questions and learn about NHCC. The gathering is hosted by the Deacons, and everyone is welcome. Please let Scott or Julie know if you will be coming.

Women's Fellowship – Thank you

Women's Fellowship would like to thank everyone who participated in the St Patrick's Day Dinner. To those who attended, we thank you for your support! To those who helped set up and clean up, we thank you for your help! To Mark Besette, John Tibor and Rick Massey we thank you for the wonderful job of prepping and cooking the delicious dinner!

You did an amazing job!! And to Gary Snowbeck for supplying the great bagpipe playing, that just topped off the afternoon!!

Women's Fellowship will be donating approximately \$700 to the parking lot paving project!!

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	3/23	9:30 a.m. 10:45	WORSHIP: Third Sunday in Lent LENTEN STUDY(K)
Monday	3/24	9:30 a.m. 10:30 1:00 p.m. 6:00	Music Together (DBL) Music Together (DBL) Food Pantry New Haven Camera Club (CH)
Tuesday	3/25	9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 3:30 5:30 6:00	Al-Anon (K) 10-11:30 PLP (CH) United Girls Choir (CH, Sanct, K) Girl Scout Troop 60071 (RR) BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
Wednesday	3/26	10:00 a.m. 10:30 7:00 p.m.	WINDOW DEADLINE FOOD PANTRY OPEN Music Together (DBL) PARKING LOT CAMPAIGN (L)
Thursday	3/27	7:00 p.m.	CHANCEL CHOIR
Friday	3/28	9:30 a.m. 10:00	ORGAN TUNING FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Saturday	3/29	3:00 p.m.	Tibetan American (K, CR)
Sunday	3/30	9:30 a.m. 10:45	WORSHIP: Fourth Sunday in Lent NEWCOMERS DISCUSSION (L)

*Small print indicates non-Church function

Bold print starts new day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Lynn Lafleur 03/23, Elaine Burr 03/25, Herbert Schneider 03/25, Sheree Alexander 03/27, Mark Bessette 03/29.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: Peter & Cheryl Hall 3/28, Bernie & Elfie Hummel 03/28, Robbie & Bruno Juliano 03/29.

*OPENING HYMN: "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

V651

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 1 Gui - de - moi, Ber - ger fi - dè - le, en ce mon - de
 2 Christ, tu es la sour - ce vi - ve des bi - ens les

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y,
 stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
 pè - le - rin, prends à toi mon coeur re - bel - le,
 plus pré - cieux fais que pour toi seul je vi - ve,

hold me with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en,
 lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer,
 gui - de - moi, sois mon sou - tien, pain de vi - e,
 gui - de - moi du haut des cieux; viens, pro - tè - ge,

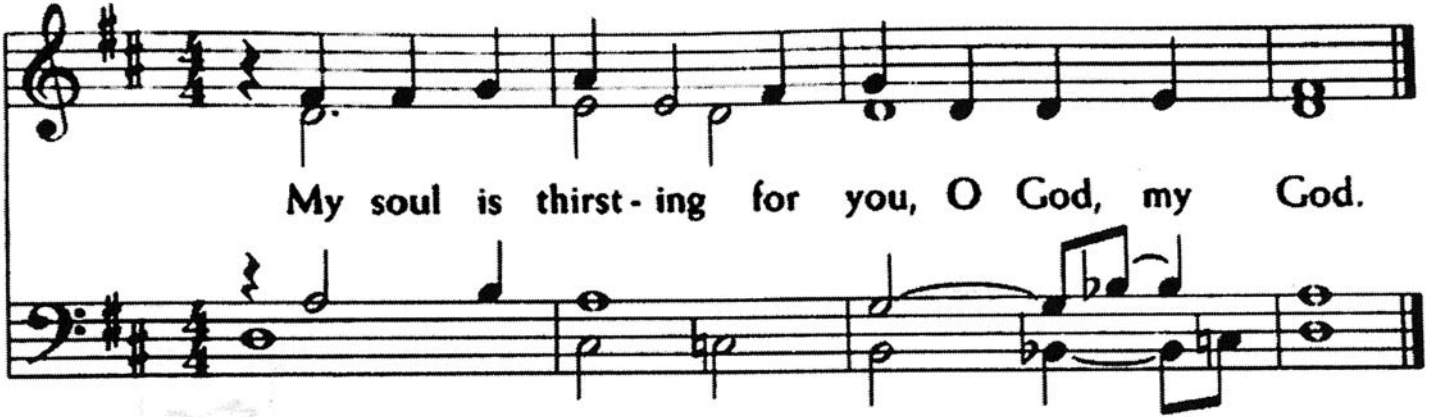
bread of heav - en, feed me till I want no more,
 strong de - liv - erer, be thou still my strength and shield,
 pain de vi - e, de ta grâ - ce nour - ris - moi,
 viens pro - tè - ge, sois mon roc, mon bou - cli - er,

feed me till I want no more.
 be thou still my strength and shield.
 de ta grâ - ce nour - ris - moi.
 sois mon roc, mon bou - cli - er.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
 bid my anxious fears subside;
 death of death, and hell's destruction,
 land me safe on Canaan's side:
 songs of praises, songs of praises
 I will ever give to thee
 I will ever give to thee.

3 Du Jourdain je suis les rives;
 quand j'ai peur, rassure-moi.
 À Sion, qu'enfin j'arrive,
 affermis ma faible foi;
 tes louanges, tes louanges,
 à jamais je chanterai,
 à jamais je chanterai.

Unison



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You are my God, I long for you from early morning.
 My whole being desires you like a dry, worn, waterless land.
 My soul thirsts for you.

In the sanctuary let me see how mighty are your works;
 your constant love is better than life itself,
 and so I will praise you. **R**

I will give thanks as long as I live;
 I raise my hands in prayer.

My soul will feast and be filled,
 and I will sing and praise you. **R**



As I lie in bed, I remember you, O God;
 I think of you all night long,
 for you are my constant help.

In the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.
 I cling to you; your hand keeps me safe. **R**

* HYMN: "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

V271

F C F C Am Dm C

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy like the wide-ness
 2 There is no place where earth's sor-rows are more felt than
 ♦ 3 There is plen-ti-ful re-demp-tion in the blood that
 4 Trou-bled souls, why will you scat-ter like a crowd of
 5 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures

Gm F C Am D7 Gm C7

of the sea; there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice
 up in heaven; there is no place where earth's fail-ings
 ♦ Christ has shed; there is joy for all the mem-bers
 fright-ened sheep? Fool-ish hearts, why will you wan-der
 of the mind, and the heart of the E-ter-nal

F C7 Gm7 C F

which is more than lib-er-ty.
 have such gra-cious judge-ment given.
 ♦ in the sor-rows of the Head.
 from a love so true and deep?
 is most won-der-ful-ly kind.

*CLOSING HYMN: "Forth in Your Name, O Christ"

V416

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines. The first system contains five numbered lines of lyrics. The second system contains three lines of lyrics. The third system contains four lines of lyrics. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and simple melodic lines.

1 Forth in your name, O Christ, we go, our
2 The task your wis - dom has as - signed here
♦ 3 You may we set at our right hand, whose
4 Help us to bear your eas - y yoke, in
5 Then with de - light may we em - ploy all

dai - ly la - bour to pur - sue, you, on - ly you, re -
let us cheer - ful - ly ful - fil; in all our works your
♦ eyes our in - most se - crets view, and la - bour on at
ev - ery mo - ment watch and pray, and still to things e -
that your boun - teous grace has given, and run our earth - ly

solved to know in all we think, or speak, or do.
pres - ence find, and prove your good and per - fect will.
♦ your com - mand and of - fer all our works to you.
ter - nal look, and hast - en to that glo - rious day.
course with joy, and close - ly walk with you to heaven.

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



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