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*North Haven*  
*Congregational Church*

United Church of Christ

*Holy Week*



North Haven, Connecticut

*An Open & Affirming Congregation*

**NOON PRAYER - HOLY WEEK**  
**Good Friday, March 29, 2024**

**Prelude:** *God So Loved the World*

John Stainer  
arr. Ethel Smith

**Opening Sentences**

O God, open my lips,

**And my mouth shall proclaim your praise. (Psalm 51)**

Those who wait for God shall renew their strength,

**They shall mount up with wings like eagles:**

They shall run and not be weary,

**They shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40)**

**Prayer**

Let us pray:

**Sustaining God, in the midst of our day,**

**And embraced by your world**

**We call upon your wisdom;**

**We draw upon your strength**

**We rely upon your grace.**

**Help us to continue faithfully in your way,**

**By the power of the Holy Spirit**

**And in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

**Hymn:** “When I Survey The Wondrous Cross”

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See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. Just as there were many who were astonished at him —so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals— so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

Who has believed what we have heard?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with affliction. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper. Out of his anguish he shall see; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

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

## **THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: John 18:1-12 p. 1256**

After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” They answered, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus replied, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.” This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, “I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.” Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave’s name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?” So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him.

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

**Silent Reflection**

# Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

## Thanksgiving

Generous and loving God, we thank you for your blessings without number,

We bless you for the beauty of creation:

For day and night, for summer and winter,

For sun and rain, for seed-time and harvest;

For your bounty supplying all our needs.

We bless you for protecting us in our weakness,

And renewing our strength of spirit;

For guiding us as we resist evil, and calling us to your truth, and to your service.

We praise you for sending Jesus to be among us:

For his life on earth, his suffering and death.

For his resurrection to new life and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Grant, O God, that our hearts may grow in thankfulness

For these and all your gifts of grace,

So that as the people of new life, we may proclaim your praise

In Jesus' name. Amen

**Intercessions**      *Using response:* Gracious God, hear our prayer;  
**And in your love, answer.**

Compassionate God,

Hear us as we pray:

For your church and its varied ministries ....

For the work of justice and the healing of creation ....

For the care of strangers, neighbors, family, friends.

For those isolated by sickness, sorrow, violence, fear ....

For those broken by the world. ...

For those who face death ....

Generous and compassionate God,

In your loving purpose, answer our prayers and fulfill our hopes;

And in all things for which we pray,

Give us grace and wisdom to accept your will,

For the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **Lord's Prayer**

**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,  
For ever and ever. Amen.**

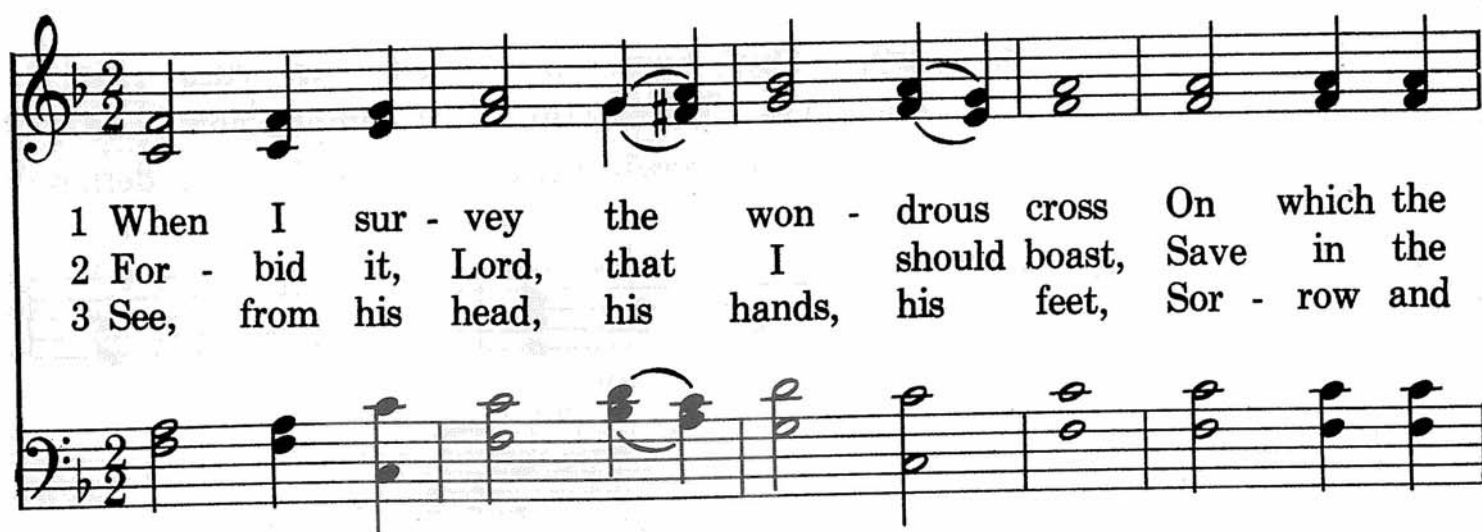
## **Blessing**

**May we continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus  
Christ. Amen.**

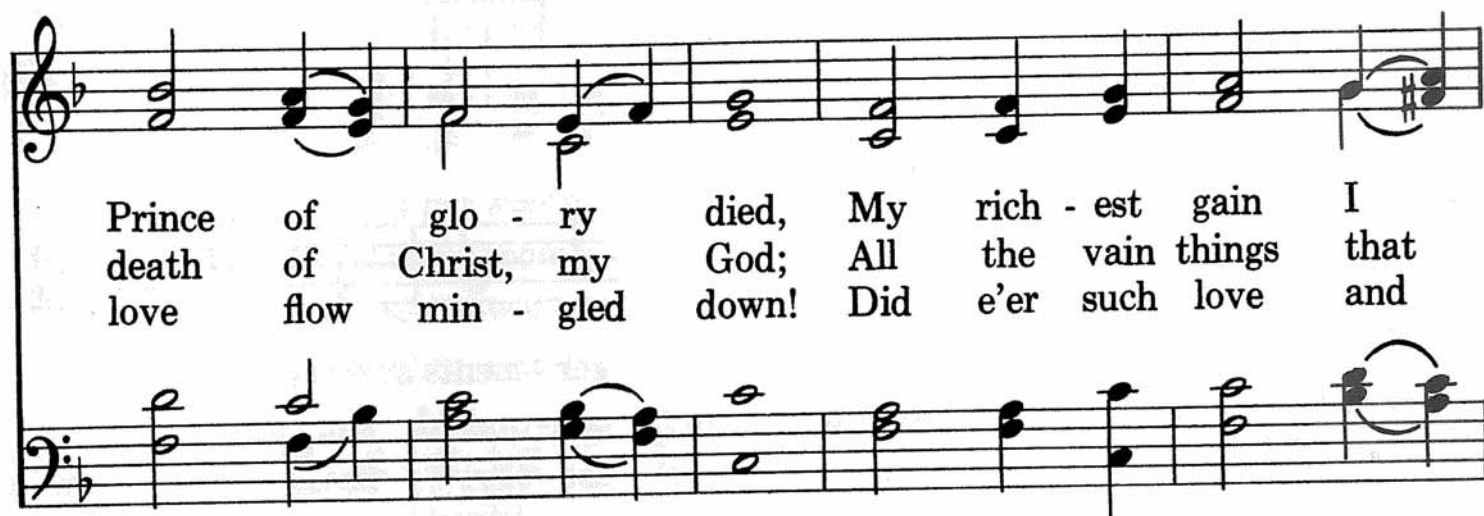
**Bless God's name. Thanks be to God.**

Special thanks to Heather Meachen, Organist, and Jeffrey Hutchins,  
Director of Music, for sharing their musical gifts with us in today's  
prayer service.

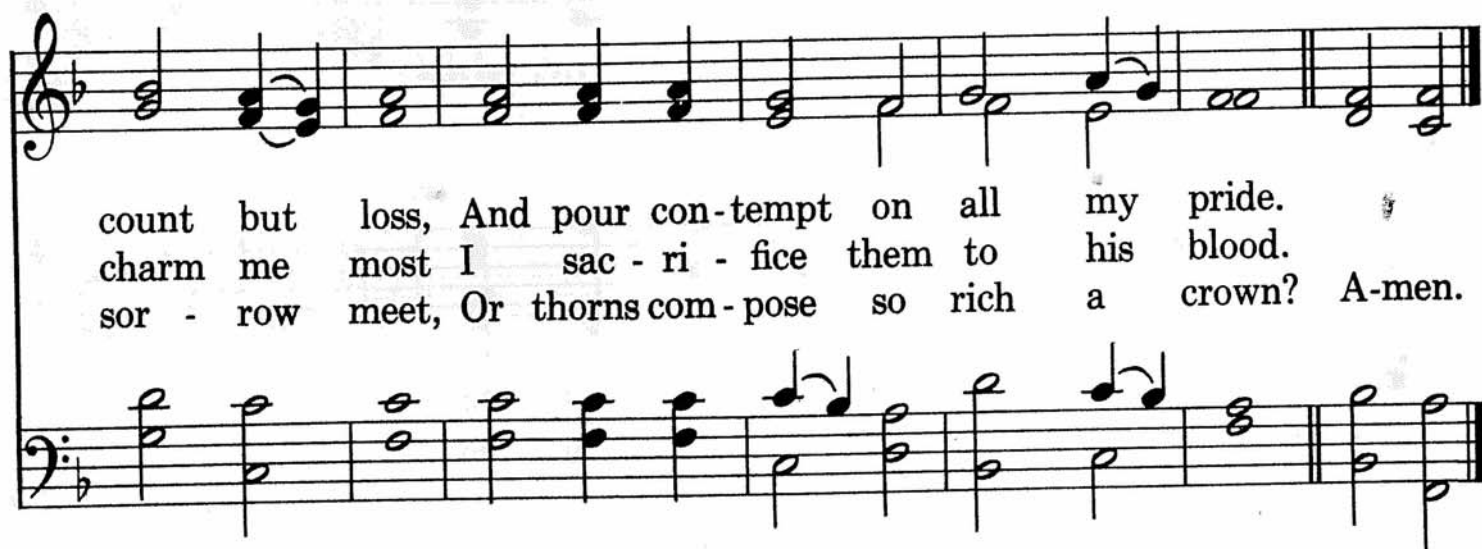
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1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the  
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the  
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, Sor - row and



Prince of glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I  
death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that  
love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and



count but loss, And pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
charm me most I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
sor - row meet, Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown? A-men.

4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.





**Please join us for Easter!**

On Easter Sunday there will be a Sunrise Service at 6am at the gazebo on the Town Green. Our Easter morning worship service, with Choir and trumpets, will be at 9:30am