

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



*North Haven Congregational Church*

North Haven, Connecticut  
*An Open & Affirming Congregation*

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

**Sunday, August 17, 2025**

**9:30 a.m.**

**Tenth Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 15**

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

**\*OPENING HYMN: “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” V264**

**\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: The One who commands the clouds, calls us to be poured out for others.

**PEOPLE: We can, by faith, be the waters of peace which quench the fires of hatred.**

Leader: The One who creates mercy and hope, longs for a world of fair play and grace.

**PEOPLE: We can, by faith, let righteousness and justice be our constant companions.**

Leader: The One who is with us in every moment, composes a love-song for our hearts.

**ALL: We can, by faith, teach this song to everyone we meet.**

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

**Source of life and love, we pray for peace in our world. We seek peace in our hearts, a peace that transcends all understanding, that heals all wounds, that reconciles all conflicts. Grant us the wisdom to seek peace, to pursue dialogue, to embrace diversity, to respect dignity, and to uphold justice.**

**May we be blessed with peace, a peace that is a gift and a responsibility, that is a promise and a challenge that is a hope and a reality. Amen.**

Rabbi Debbie Reichmann and Reverend Samantha Gonzalez-Block,  
Interfaith Families Project of Greater Washington, IFFP.org 10/11/23

**\*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.

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION:~unison**

**Loving and Gracious God, form a new song of soul within us. Take every fragment of our lives and fashion a new creation. Plant us deep in the soil of your love so that your living water might rise in us, forming a fruit of possibility unimaginable on our own. Grant us grace to trust your promised presence here, now and always. By this, gift us with a new strength of heart for whatever your love inspires. Amen.\*\*\***

## **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 FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Psalm 80: 7-19**

**Pg 532**

### **Prayer for Israel's Restoration**

- <sup>7</sup> Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
- <sup>8</sup> You brought a vine out of Egypt;  
you drove out the nations and planted it.
- <sup>9</sup> You cleared the ground for it;  
it took deep root and filled the land.
- <sup>10</sup> The mountains were covered with its shade,  
the mighty cedars with its branches;
- <sup>11</sup> it sent out its branches to the sea  
and its shoots to the River.
- <sup>12</sup> Why then have you broken down its walls,  
so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?
- <sup>13</sup> The boar from the forest ravages it,  
and all that move in the field feed on it.
- <sup>14</sup> Turn again, O God of hosts;  
look down from heaven and see;  
have regard for this vine,
- <sup>15</sup> the stock that your right hand planted.
- <sup>16</sup> It has been burned with fire; it has been cut down;  
may they perish at the rebuke of your countenance.
- <sup>17</sup> But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one whom you made strong for yourself.

<sup>18</sup> Then we will never turn back from you;  
give us life, and we will call on your name.

<sup>19</sup> Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

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

**\* HYMN: “O Jesus, I Have Promised”**

**Verses 1 & 2 V120**

**THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Hebrews 11:29-12:2 pg 1367**

### **The Faith of Other Israelite Heroes**

<sup>29</sup> By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. <sup>30</sup> By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. <sup>31</sup> By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

<sup>32</sup> And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, <sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. <sup>35</sup> Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. <sup>36</sup> Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup> They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— <sup>38</sup> of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

<sup>39</sup> Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup> since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

### **The Example of Jesus**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

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

**\* HYMN: “O Jesus, I Have Promised”**

Verses 3&4 V120

**SERMON: “Unlikely Saints?”**

Rev. Cindy

**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**

Rev. Cindy

**GREETING OF PEACE ~unison**

*May the peace of God in Jesus Christ be with you always!*

**\*CLOSING HYMN: “O Day of God Draw Nigh”**

V688

**\*THE BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

**\*Those who are able, please stand.**

**\*\* Thom Shuman, Bearers of Grace and Justice**

**\*\*\* UCC Worship Ways**

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

**Greeter** is Beth Anderson. **Guest Organist** Gail DeBoer.

**Flowers** today are given by Nancy and Ken Mahoney in celebration of Nancy’s parents, Fred and Muriel Tiedemann celebrating their 74th wedding anniversary on August 18th! Nancy and Ken will celebrate their 46th anniversary and Callie will be 4 years old.

**Please join us for Fellowship Hour in Carroll Hall immediately following service.**

**In Our Prayers This Week are:** Lee Guckert and her Family, Linda Rankin, Linda Shannon, Marlene Bellonio, Meg Adams, Herb & Ann Schneider, Charlotte Shea, and the Family of Curtis Andrews, Sr..

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Food Pantry needs**

The Food Pantry is in need of canned meals: Beefaroni, Spaghettio's, Beef stew, Chili and Chili with beans. Please bring to the church.

### **Covenant to Care**

Thank you to all who are supplying the backpacks for children in need, all the names were taken last week! Please return the filled backpacks with the child's name on it by August 24th. Thank you for your support!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Eleanor Harple 08/17, Craig Smith 08/17, Adam Schweickert 08/21, Alexis Dubail 08/24.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:** Jeanne & Billy Mecca 08/18, Nancy & Ken Mahoney 08/18, John & Sue Tibor 08/19, Scott Morrow & Carol Amico 08/22.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS\***

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8/17</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>WORSHIP:</b> Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
<b>Monday</b>	<b>8/18</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b> 6:00	<b>FOOD PANTRY OPEN</b> CT Record Club (K)
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>8/19</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b> 12:00 p.m. 6:00 7:00	<b>Al-Anon (K)</b> PLP (Library) Bible Study (Zoom) Music Under the Stars (Green)
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>8/20</b>	10:00 a.m. 2:30 p.m. 7:00	<b>WINDOW DEADLINE</b> FOOD PANTRY OPEN Church Safety Team (L) Al-Anon District Family (K)
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>8/21</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Al-Anon AWSC Agenda (K)</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>8/22</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>FOOD PANTRY OPEN</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>8/23</b>		
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8/24</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>WORSHIP:</b> Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

\*Small print indicates non-Church function  
**Bold print starts new day.**

**\*OPENING HYMN: “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”** V264

Chords: G, C, Am, D, G, D7, G

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise;  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry, thou rul - est in light;

Chords: G, C, Am, D, G, D7, G

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes;  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

Chords: G, D, G, (Em), D, G, D

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
 all praise we would ren - der, O help us to see

Chords: G, C, Am, D, G, D7, G

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.  
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dour of light hid - eth thee!



**\* HYMN: “O Jesus, I Have Promised”**

## Verses 1 & 2 V120

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;  
2 O let me feel you near me: the world is ev - er near;

re - main for ev - er near me, my Sav - iour and my friend:  
I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear;

I shall not fear the jour - ney if you are by my side,  
my foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;

nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.  
but, Je - sus, then draw near - er and shield my soul from sin.

\* HYMN: “O Jesus, I Have Promised”

Verses 3&4 V120

F

(Fdim F)

C

Dm

Gm

C



3 O let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still,

4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you,



F

G7

C

(F C)

G7

C



a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will;

that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



C7

F

(D7)

Gm

(D7 Gm)



O speak to re - as - sure me, to hast - en or con - trol;

And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



Unison

Bb

C

Harmony F

Bb

F

C7

F



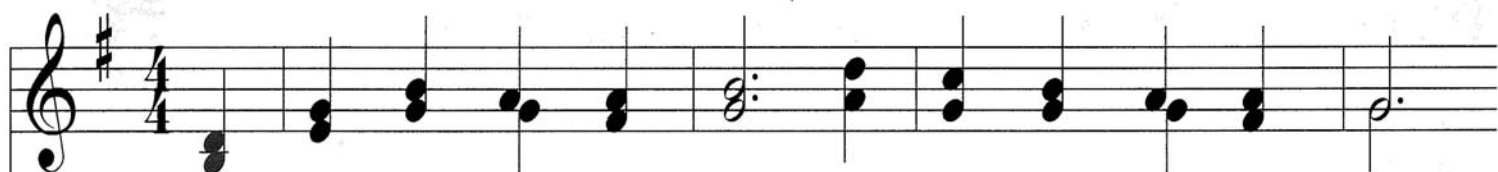
now speak, and make me lis - ten, O guard - ian of my soul.

O give me grace to fol - low, my Sav - iour and my friend.



**\*CLOSING HYMN: "O Day of God Draw Nigh"**

V688



- 1 O day of God, draw nigh in beau - ty and in power,  
2 Bring to our trou - bled minds, un - cer - tain and a - fraid,  
♦ 3 Bring jus - tice to our land, that all may dwell se - cure,  
4 Bring to our world of strife your sov - ereign word of peace,  
5 O day of God, draw nigh as at cre - a - tion's birth;



- come with your time - less judge - ment now to match our pres - ent hour.  
the qui - et of a stead - fast faith, calm of a call o - beyed.  
♦ and fine - ly build for days to come foun - da - tions that en - dure.  
that war may haunt the earth no more and des - o - la - tion cease.  
let there be light a - gain, and set your judge - ments in the earth.



## **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.

**Church Staff:** All the Members, Ministers to the World

The Reverend Cindy Stasko, Bridge Pastor

Karlee Etter, Ministry Coordinator for Children

Jeffrey Hutchins, Director of Music

Heather Meachen, Organist

Julie Schweickert, Office Manager

Dave Nelson, Sexton