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*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, September 7, 2025**

**9:30 a.m.**

**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 18  
The Sacrament of Communion**

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE:** "Reflection"

Robert J. Powell

**\*OPENING HYMN:** Called as Partners in Christ's Service

Insert

**\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: We gather in the presence of God:

**People: who knows us when we wake up and when we go to sleep,  
and in all the moments in between.**

Leader: We gather in the house of God:

**People: who has created a family for us, here as well as in  
Palestine, Sudan and Ukraine.**

Leader: We gather to be the people of God:

**All: who appeals to us to follow in love, in faith and in service.**

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

For this fragile planet earth,

its times and tides, its sunsets and seasons:

We give thanks this day.

For the joy of human life,

its wonders and surprises, its hopes and achievements:

We give thanks this day.

For our human community,

our common past and future hope,

our oneness transcending all separation,

our capacity to work for peace and justice in the midst of hostility and  
oppression:

We give thanks this day.

For all who have labored and suffered for a fairer world,

who have lived so that others might live in dignity and freedom:

We give thanks this day.

We pray that we may live not by our fears but by our hopes,

not by our words but by our deeds.## Amen. Rev. O. Eugene Pickett

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. Amen.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:~unison**

Searching god, we are so attached to our possessions, we have trouble sharing them. We are so connected to our pleasures that we cannot feel the pain of those around us. We are so stuck on ourselves, we cannot sense our souls slipping away into the shadows.

Most merciful, God: loosen us from the grip of the world, so we may feel your healing touch. Sever us from our sin, so your spirit might bind us to you. Reshape us, redeem us, renew us, so we may take up our crosses and follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

*Silence is kept*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

The God who call us is the God who created us; the God who formed us is the God who forgives us. This is the Good News; we are God's new creation.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are reshaped, renewed, and forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**\*GREETING OF PEACE ~unison**

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

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us share with each other signs of Christ's peace.

**THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Jeremiah 18: 1-3, 11 Pg 709****The Potter and the Clay**

18 The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: <sup>2</sup>“Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words.” <sup>3</sup> So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. <sup>4</sup> The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

<sup>11</sup> Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you, from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

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

**THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON:** Philemon 1: 1-21 Pg 1358

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,  
To our beloved coworker Philemon, <sup>2</sup> to our sister Apphia, to our  
fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus  
Christ.

Philemon's Love and Faith

<sup>4</sup> I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, <sup>5</sup> because I  
hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord  
Jesus. <sup>6</sup> I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective  
as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. <sup>7</sup> I have indeed  
received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the  
hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

Paul's Plea for Onesimus

<sup>8</sup> For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to  
command you to do the right thing, <sup>9</sup> yet I would rather appeal to you  
on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as  
a prisoner of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup> I am appealing to you for my child,  
Onesimus, whose father I have become during my  
imprisonment. <sup>11</sup> Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed  
useful to you and to me. <sup>12</sup> I am sending him, that is, my own heart,  
back to you. <sup>13</sup> I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister  
to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, <sup>14</sup> but I  
preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good  
deed might be voluntary and not something forced. <sup>15</sup> Perhaps this is  
the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might  
have him back for the long term, <sup>16</sup> no longer as a slave but more than a  
slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you,  
both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup> So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would  
welcome me. <sup>18</sup> If he has wronged you in any way or owes you  
anything, charge that to me. <sup>19</sup> I, Paul, am writing this with my own  
hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own  
self. <sup>20</sup> Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord!  
Refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup> Confident of your obedience, I am  
writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

<sup>22</sup> One thing more: prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping  
through your prayers to be restored to you.

## Final Greetings and Benediction

<sup>23</sup> Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you,<sup>[24]</sup> and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my coworkers.

<sup>25</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

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

## Interlude

**MEDITATION:** “Useful to Whom?”

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

## THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

**Preparation Hymn:** When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

V149

(Rockingham)

Invitation and Consecration

The 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, forever. Amen.

Leader: Let us gather around the table with the offering of bread and drink upon it and the promise of the Living Christ among us. This is the welcome table of God where all who seek to be at peace with their neighbor and all who seek the mercy of God in Christ are embraced. Come, for we are invited into this holy mystery. Come.

**People: We are ready!**

Leader: Jesus said: “I am the bread of life. All who come to me shall not hunger, and all who believe in me shall never be thirsty.”

**People: We are hungry and thirsty.**

Leader: We remember that on one very special night when Jesus was sharing a meal with his friends, he took his authority as the Christ and offered the bread in thanksgiving and said...

**People: "Take, eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me."**

Leader: In the same way, and by the same authority, Jesus offered the cup in thanksgiving and said,

**People: "Take, drink. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it in remembrance of me."**

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit, Come. Open our eyes to the mystery of Christ's presence in these ordinary things in these our ordinary lives. May they be for us the very essence of the living Christ in our midst. Through the broken bread...

**People: We participate in the Body of Christ.**

The bread is shared.

Leader: Through the cup of blessing...

**People: We participate in the new life Christ gives.**

The cup is shared

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**\*CLOSING HYMN: Lift High the Cross**

V151

**\*THE BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE: "Finale"**

Robert J. Powell

\*Those who are able, please stand.

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**Deacon** is Nancy Mahoney. **Communion Servers** are Larry Ballantyne & Dot Pierce. **Scripture Reader** is Jim Bennett. **Greeter** is Carol Mitchell. **Join us for Fellowship Hour** immediately following service.

Special thanks to our guest organist this morning, Haniel Neves. Haniel is an award winning organist from the great state of Texas who will be studying with Martin Jean and pursuing harpsichord studies with Arthur Haas at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music this semester. Welcome to Greater New Haven and to the North Haven Congregational Church, Haniel!

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS\***

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9/07</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>  10:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	<b>WORSHIP:</b> Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost Mothers of Twins (DBL) Tibetan American (K,CR)
<b>Monday</b>	<b>9/08</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b> 1:00 7:00	<b>FOOD PANTRY OPEN</b> Retired Federal Employess (CH) SAFE CONDUCT
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>9/09</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 10:00 10:30 12:00 p.m. 12:00 4:30 6:00 6:00	<b>Music Together (DBL)</b> Al-Anon (K) Music Together (DBL) PLP (Library) BUILDING & GROUNDS (H) Ukulele (DBL) PARKING LOT CAMPAIGN BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>9/10</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 10:00 7:00 p.m.	<b>Music Together (DBL)</b> FOOD PANTRY OPEN MLB (L)
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>9/11</b>	<b>4:30 p.m.</b> 7:00 7:00	<b>Ukulele (DBL)</b> CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL Garden Club (CH)
<b>Friday</b>	<b>9/12</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 10:00 10:30 7:00 p.m.	<b>Music Together (DBL)</b> FOOD PANTRY OPEN Music Together (DBL) Danish Brotherhood (K)
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>9/13</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 10:30	<b>Music Together (DBL)</b> Music Together (DBL)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9/14</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>  2:00 p.m.	<b>WORSHIP:</b> Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost Tibetan American (K,CR)

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

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** John Masnato 09/08, Sally Pallatto 09/09,  
AnnMarie Czajkowski 9/10, Ryan Petrucci 09/11, Aaron Weiss 09/12.



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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Safety Team**, represented by Cheryl Bogert and Nancy Mahoney will do a presentation this morning.

**Food Pantry – Items needed** – please bring canned pasta meals, chili and beef stew and place them in the basket in the Narthex.

**Peace Pole Dedication** - The Peace Pole Dedication will be on Sunday, October 5th.

**We enjoyed the visit of the Mitsako Children's Choir** and were blessed to have met them and spend time with them. Hopefully they will return next year. May Jesus watch over them in their travels.





## **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

**\*OPENING HYMN:** Called as Partners in Christ's Service Insert



1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,  
2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,  
3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,  
4 So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life



We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.  
Help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.  
That sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,  
Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,  
Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,  
Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



E-qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.  
Blend-ing hu-man skills to-geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.  
Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.  
Mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.



F

Gm (D7) Gm F C F



1 Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

2 Spir - it of the liv - ing God, move a - mong us all;

F F7 Gm (D7) Gm Gm7/C C7 F



Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:



Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.

hum - ble, car - ing, self - less, shar - ing.

F F7 Gm (F#dim Gm) F C7sus4 C7 F



Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fill our lives with love!











Descant

4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine,  
 D A D G D

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross  
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast  
 1 Quand je me tour - ne vers la croix  
 2 Qui donc pour - rait cal - mer ce coeur

that were a pres - ent far too small:  
 D G A D A

on which the Prince of glo - ry died,  
 save in the death of Christ, my God:  
 où Christ ex - pi - re sur le bois  
 hor - mis la croix de mon Sau - veur?

love so a - maz - ing, so di - vine,  
 A E A D E A

my rich - est gain I count but loss,  
 all the vain things that charm me most,  
 mon coeur bles - sé, rem - pli de deuil,  
 Tous mes plai - sirs, mes vains dé - sirs,

de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

G D Em D A D

and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
 I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
 prend en dé - goût mon fol or - gueil.  
 je veux, ô Christ, te les of - frir.

3 See from his head, his hands, his feet,  
 sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
 Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
 or thorns compose so rich a crown?

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.

Refrain

Descant

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

Unison

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

till all the world a - dore his sac - red name.

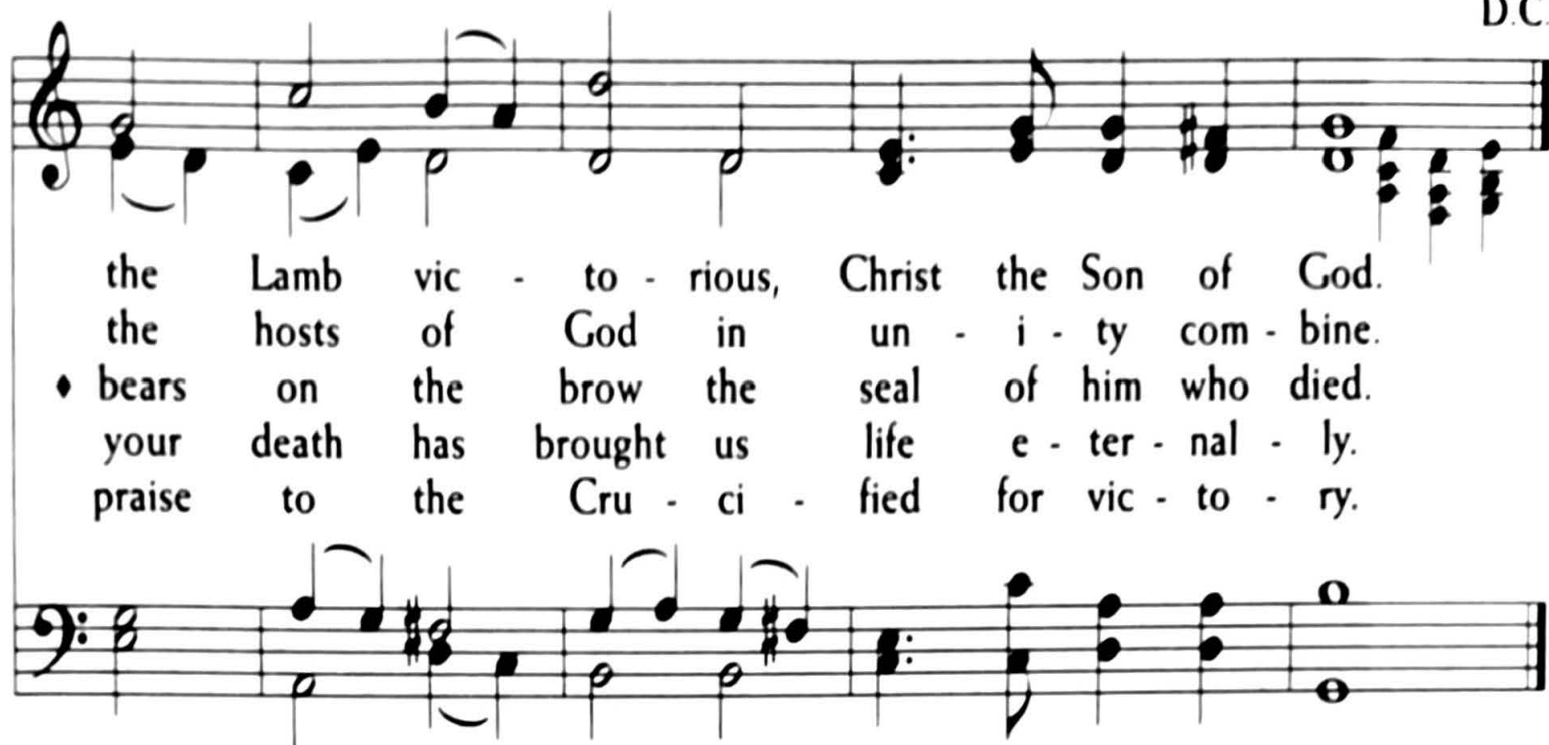
till all the world a - dore his sac - red name.

Harmony

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - iour trod,  
2 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,  
3 Each new - born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied  
4 Sav - iour, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
5 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be

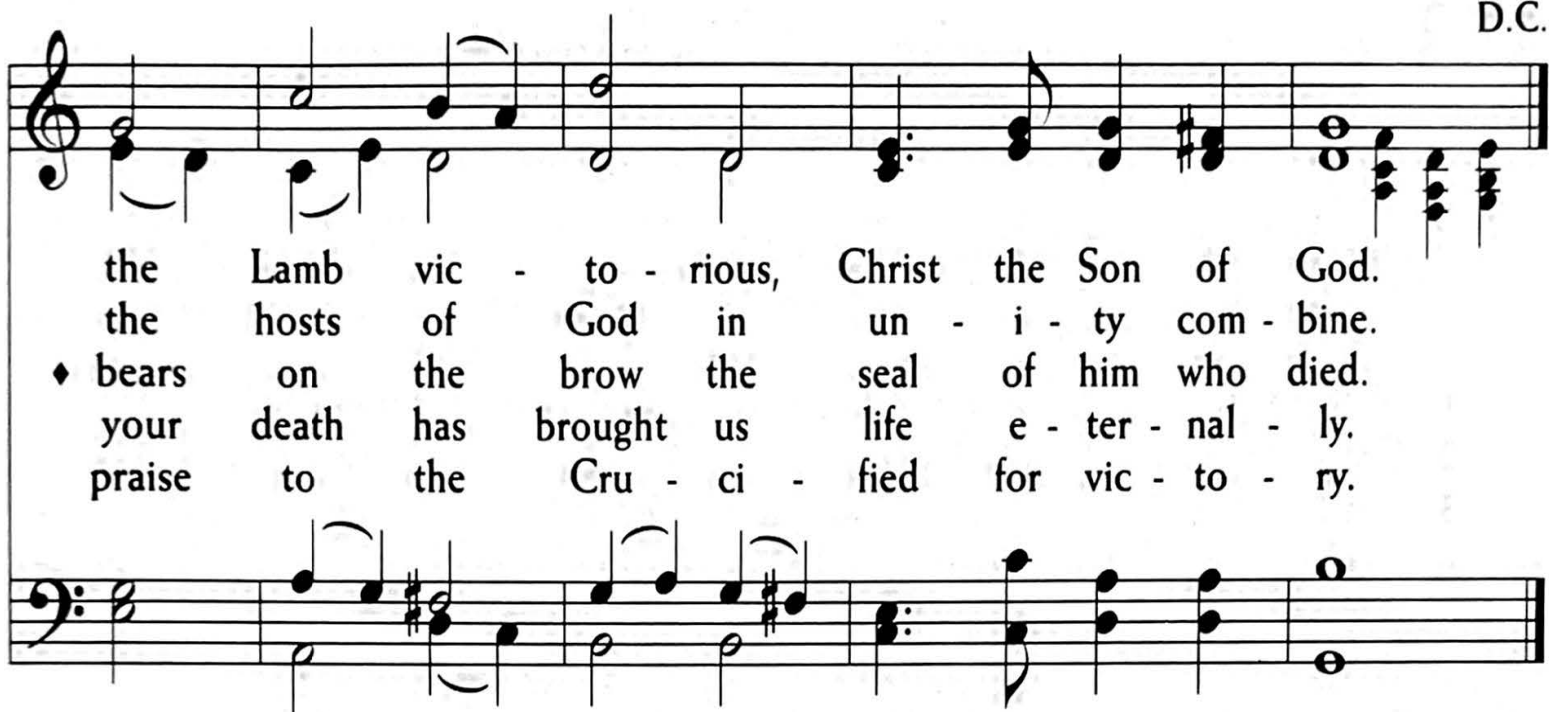


D.C.



the Lamb vic - to - rious, Christ the Son of God.  
the hosts of God in un - i - ty com - bine.  
♦ bears on the brow the seal of him who died.  
your death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

D.C.



the Lamb vic - to - rious, Christ the Son of God.  
the hosts of God in un - i - ty com - bine.  
♦ bears on the brow the seal of him who died.  
your death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

