

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, September 28, 2025**

**9:30 a.m.**

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 21**

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE:** *Interlude No. 3*

Henry Heron

**\*OPENING HYMN:** "Fairest Lord Jesus"

VU 341

**\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: The word has come for us from God:

**People: who promises to shelter us under the wings of hope and grace.**

Leader: The word has come to us from Jesus:

**People: who encourages us to remember the good news we have received.**

Leader: The word flows to us from the spirit:

**People: who reminds us to place our hope and trust in God.**

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

**Holy One,**

**You who speak in the Gita, the Torah, the Qur'an, the Beatitudes.**

**Teach us to love as You love: widely, wildly, without condition.**

**Break us open where we cling to safety. Call us into sacred discomfort. Make us prophets of peace, warriors of tenderness, disciples of courage. Let our duty be love, our worship be justice, our legacy be kinship. To love. To liberate. To build the Kingdom—together. Amen. -Reed Kirkman, McKinney, TX**

**\*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. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION:~unison**

**God our Comforter and our Confronter, speak to our souls.**

**Engage our spirits with truth and compassion. Stir our hearts with your vision of a world full of your love and hope. Inspire us through your word, meet us in the moment, and infuse us with joy and courage to pursue your way. Guide us on the journey even as you dwell in our worship so that we may honor you and be restored in you. Amen.## 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.**

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

Rev. Cindy

## **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM - see insert**

## **THE GIFT OF MUSIC: “Shout to the Lord”**

**Words & Music by  
Darlene Zschech**

Sung by the Chancel Choir & All are welcome:  
Shout to the Lord all the earth let us sing  
Power and majesty Praise to the King.  
Mountains bow down and the sea will roar at the sound of Your Name  
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands.  
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand  
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

## **THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Psalm 91**

Page 540

### **Assurance of God’s Protection**

- <sup>1</sup> You who live in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
- <sup>2</sup> will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress;  
my God, in whom I trust.”
- <sup>3</sup> For he will deliver you from the snare of the hunter  
and from the deadly pestilence;
- <sup>4</sup> he will cover you with his pinions,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness is a shield and defense.
- <sup>5</sup> You will not fear the terror of the night  
or the arrow that flies by day
- <sup>6</sup> or the pestilence that stalks in darkness  
or the destruction that wastes at noonday.
- <sup>7</sup> A thousand may fall at your side,  
ten thousand at your right hand,  
but it will not come near you.
- <sup>8</sup> You will only look with your eyes  
and see the punishment of the wicked.

<sup>9</sup> Because you have made the Lord your refuge,  
the Most High your dwelling place,  
<sup>10</sup> no evil shall befall you,  
no scourge come near your tent.  
<sup>11</sup> For he will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways.  
<sup>12</sup> On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.  
<sup>13</sup> You will tread on the lion and the adder;  
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.  
<sup>14</sup> Those who love me, I will deliver;  
I will protect those who know my name.  
<sup>15</sup> When they call to me, I will answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble;  
I will rescue them and honor them.  
<sup>16</sup> With long life I will satisfy them  
and show them my salvation.

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

**THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON:** Matthew 17:18-20 Page 1165

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was cured from that moment. <sup>19</sup> Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” <sup>20</sup> He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”

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

**\*HYMN:** “Psalm 91: On Eagle’s Wings

VU 808

**SERMON:** “The Gift of Faith”

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.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

\***CLOSING HYMN:** “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

VU 288

\***THE BENEDICTION**

\***THE SUNG BENEDICTION** “May God Who Creates You”

VU 454

**POSTLUDE:** *Sonata: Finale*

Joseph Haydn

\*Those who are able, please stand.

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

## United Church of Christ Worship Ways,  
<https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-16c-september-28/>  
Accessed 9/23/2025.

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**Deacon** is Nancy Mahoney. **Greeters** are Cheryl Bogert & Beth Anderson. **Today’s flowers** are given by Ted and Joyce Manzo to celebrate Joyce's birthday on 9/30 and their sweet niece's birthday on 9/21. **Please join us for Fellowship Hour in Carroll Hall immediately following the service.**

**In Our Prayers This Week are:** The Rev. Deb Ruotolo, Lee Guckert and her Family, Linda Rankin, Linda Shannon, Marlene Bellonio, Meg Adams, Herb & Ann Schneider, and Charlotte Shea.

**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.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS\*

|                  |             |                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>9/28</b> | <b>9:30 a.m.</b><br>2:00 p.m.                                            | <b>WORSHIP:</b> Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost<br>Tibetan American (K,CR)                                                                                     |
| <b>Monday</b>    | <b>9/29</b> | <b>9:30 a.m.</b><br>1:00 p.m.<br>4:00<br>5:30                            | <b>Music Together (DBL)</b><br>FOOD PANTRY OPEN<br>BIBLE STUDY (L)<br>New Haven Camera Club (CH)                                                                |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>9/30</b> | <b>9:30 a.m.</b><br>10:00<br>10:30<br>12:00 p.m.<br>3:30<br>4:30<br>6:00 | <b>Music Together (DBL)</b><br>Al-Anon (K)<br>Music Together (DBL)<br>PLP (Library)<br>United Girls Choir (CH, K, Sanct)<br>Ukulele (DBL)<br>BIBLE STUDY (Zoom) |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>10/1</b> | <b>9:30 a.m.</b><br>10:00<br>6:00 p.m.<br>7:00                           | <b>Music Together (DBL)</b><br>FOOD PANTRY OPEN<br>Leos Club (CH)<br>Lions Club (CH)                                                                            |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>10/2</b> | <b>2:30 p.m.</b><br>4:30<br>6:30<br>7:00                                 | <b>Food Council (CH)</b><br>Ukulele (DBL)<br>Mothers of Twins (CH)<br>CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL                                                                   |
| <b>Friday</b>    | <b>10/3</b> | <b>9:30 a.m.</b><br>10:00<br>10:30                                       | <b>Music Together (DBL)</b><br>FOOD PANTRY OPEN<br>Music Together (DBL)                                                                                         |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | <b>10/4</b> | <b>7:30 a.m.</b><br>9:30<br>10:30                                        | <b>MENS FELLOWSHIP</b><br>Music Together (DBL)<br>Music Together (DBL)                                                                                          |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>10/5</b> | <b>9:30 a.m.</b><br>10:30<br>11:00<br>2:00 p.m.                          | <b>WORSHIP:</b> Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost<br>PEACE POLE DEDICATION<br>Catholic Church Food Delivery<br>Tibetan American (K,CR)                           |

\*Small print indicates non-Church function

**Bold print starts new day.**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Sarah Struk 09/28, Stephen Baraquin 09/29, Joyce Manzo 09/30, Robert Nielsen 10/01, LaVala Rossi 10/03, Linda Nielsen 10/04.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:** Gus & Lisa VanDerMaelen 10/02.

**THE SACRAMENT  
OF  
CHRISTIAN BAPTISM**

**September 28, 2025**

**Aubree Lynn Nelson**



**THE NORTH HAVEN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
United Church of Christ  
28 Church Street  
North Haven, Connecticut 06473**

**+**

**The Reverend Cindy Stasko, Bridge Minister**

## THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Baptism is a moment in the Christian community when we recognize the grace of God living in each newborn creation.*

### GREETING

**Minister:** Friends in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

**People:** **There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us. There is one Lord, one faith, one Baptism, one God and Creator of us all.**

### ADDRESS

**Minister:** From the start of the Christian community centuries ago, people have been received into the church through baptism. Baptism is a sign that God loves each one of us individually. It shows and tells us that God's love encompasses and embraces us all and that God's grace works in and through our lives. The water we use in baptism is thus a seal of God's grace and reminds us of Jesus Christ, who was himself baptized, buried and raised that we might know life in all its fullness. The water is sprinkled, poured out – like God's Spirit – on us and for us all so we are reminded and assured that we are all God's children, that our future lies with God, and that the church, the family of God, is where we will be helped and equipped to serve God in the world.

### Questions of the Parents and Godparents

**Minister:** Do you desire to have Aubree baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

**Parents & Godparents:** **We do.**

**Minister:** Will you encourage her to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

**Parents & Godparents:** **We will, with the help of God.**

**Minister:** Will you teach her so that she may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

**Parents & Godparents:** **We will, with the help of God.**

**Minister:** Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciples, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

**Parents & Godparents:** **We do, with the help of God.**

**Minister:** Do you promise, according to the grace given you to grow with Aubree in the Christian faith, to help her to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, by celebrating Christ's presence, by furthering Christ's mission in all the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian church so that one day she may affirm this baptism?

**Parents & Godparents:** **We do, with the help of God.**

### **\* CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT**

(The Congregation will please stand as able)

**Deacon:** Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to Aubree who is about to be baptized, as she lives and grows in Christ?

**People:** **We promise our love, support, and care.**

### **ACT OF BAPTISM**

**Minister:** By what name will your child be called?

**Parents:** **"Aubree Lynn Nelson".**

**Minister:** Aubree Lynn Nelson, you are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** **Amen.**

### **A BLESSING AT BAPTISM**

**Minister:** Open your heart, O God, and pour out your gifts upon Aubree.

Open your mouth, Lord Jesus, let your words sing in her soul.

Open your hands, Holy Spirit and cradle her in your love, That she might reach out to receive every joy you have in store for her, and be a blessing to all for evermore.

## **PRESENTATION OF THE CANDLE**

Deacon: Ryan and Lauren, this candle is a symbol of the risen Christ alive in the world today. I ask you to receive this light and to share it with Aubree as a sign of your pledge to guard and protect the light that is in her.

## **PRESENTATION OF THE CERTIFICATE**

Moderator: Ryan and Lauren, your child's Baptism will be recorded in the records of North Haven Congregational Church UCC as the local expression of Christ's universal church.

## **PRESENTATION OF THE BIBLE**

Ministry Coordinator for Children:

Ryan and Lauren, We promise to be your partners as you guide Aubree's journey in faith.



**We celebrate the baptism of:**

**Aubree Lynn Nelson**

**Born: March 11, 2025**

**Parents:**

**Ryan and Lauren Nelson**

**Godparents:**

**Erik Nelson and Katie Seeger**

## **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.

### **Honor Them With A Flag**

The North Haven Republican Town Committee is sponsoring "Honor Them with a Flag", a fundraiser to benefit the **American Legion Post 76**. It is a salute to our country's military personnel, veterans and first responders. The public is invited to participate by purchasing a U.S. flag dedicated to a member of our military, first responder or anyone else close to your heart. The flags will go on display on the North Haven Town Green from the weekend before Veterans Day on Sunday November 9, 2025 and displayed until November 29, 2025. Each flag, 12" x 18", will have a white ribbon attached to it inscribed with the name and rank of the soldier, first responder or loved one. Flags will be available for collection by purchaser until November 29th from the lawn at the North Haven Town Green. Proceeds will benefit the local veterans' projects. The cost per flag is \$10. There is no limit on purchases, but all forms must be received no later than October 27th. For more information, please contact Nick Mastroanni at [snm1986@yahoo.com](mailto:snm1986@yahoo.com) or 203-430-0411.

A ceremony honoring our veterans and first responders has been scheduled for Sunday, November 9th at 12:00 pm on the North Haven Town Green. Please come and join us for this moving ceremony.

**Deadline for purchases is Wednesday, October 27, 2025.**

**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: “Fairest Lord Jesus”

VU 341

D

G A D

G A D

G



1

\*Fair - est Lord Je - sus, rul - er of all na - ture, O thou of

2

Fair are the mead - ows, fair - er still the wood - lands, robed in the

3

Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the moon - light, and fair the

4

All fair - est beau - ty heav - en - ly and earth - ly, won - drous - ly,

A

D G D Asus4 A D B Em



God to earth come down: thee will I cher - ish,

bloom - ing garb of spring; Je - sus is fair - er,

twink - ling, star - ry host; Je - sus shines bright - er,

Je - sus, is found in thee; none can be near - er,

Em A D Bm D Em D A7 D



thee will I hon - our, thou my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.

Je - sus is pur - er, who makes the trou - bled heart to sing.

Je - sus shines pur - er than all the an - gels heaven can boast.

fair - er or dear - er than thou, my Sav - iour, art to me.

\*HYMN: “Psalm 91: On Eagle’s Wings

VU 808

Solo or choir

G

D7/F#

G



1

You who dwell in the shel - ter of our God, who a - bide in this shad - ow for

D7/F# F Dm Bb Gm Asus4



life, say to the Lord: "My ref - uge, my Rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain

A7

D

Em

A7

All "And I will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,

D

D7

G

A7

Bm

F#m

Em

A7

D

make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of my hand."

after last refrain (Solo or choir)

A7

Bm

F#m

Em

A7

D

And hold you, hold you in the palm of my hand.

2 The snare of the fowl - er will nev - er cap - ture you, and

G

D7/F#

F

3

fam - ine will bring you no fear: un - der God's wings your

Dm

F

Gm

Asus4

D.S.

ref - uge, God's faith - ful - ness your shield.

D

G

3

D7/F#

3 You need not fear the ter - ror of the night, nor the

G

D7/F#

F

ar - row that flies by day; though thou - sands fall a -

Dm

F

Gm

Asus4

D.S.

bout you, near you it shall not come.

4 For to God's an - gels is giv - en a com - mand to  
guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will  
bear you up, lest you dash your foot a - gainst a stone.

## \*CLOSING HYMN: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

VU 288

3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,  
1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, God our Cre - a - tor;  
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest,  
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,  
thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,  
there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee;  
sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove  
thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row—  
thou chang - est not, thy com - pas - sions, they fail not;  
join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness  
strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row—

won - drous the por - tion thy bless - ings pro - vide.

as thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
won - drous the por - tion thy bless - ings pro - vide.

Refrain

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by

morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy hand hath pro -

morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy hand hath pro -

vid - ed — great is thy faith - ful - ness, ev - er to me!

vid - ed — great is thy faith - ful - ness, ev - er to me!

**\*THE SUNG BENEDICTION “May God Who Creates You” VU 454**

May God who cre - ates you give you light;

may God who sus - tains you make you wise;

may God who pro - tects you give you joy,

may God who sur - rounds you give you peace.