

FOUNDED 1716

North Haven

Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



North Haven, Connecticut

An Open & Affirming Congregation

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

Sunday, December 21, 2025

9:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: I Wonder As I Wander

Arr. by Keith D Rowley

GIFT OF MUSIC: “Do You Hear What I Hear?” Gloria Shayne Baker
Sung by the Children’s Choir & Noël Regney
and the Chancel Choir arr. Harry Simeone

***OPENING HYMN:** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

V1

CALL TO WORSHIP AND ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING:

Leader: Love. Everything begins with Love.

**People: From the beginning of creation to the end of time,
God’s love colors everything.**

Leader: Open your hearts to love and you will recognize hope
shining in the most ancient of promises.

The purple candle of Hope is lit.

Leader: Love. Everything continues with Love.

**People: From strangers across oceans to neighbors next door
God’s love dwells in everything.**

Leader: Live love as a way of being and you will see peace
shining in each and every face that is: beloved.

The purple candle of Peace is lit.

Leader: Love. Everything ends with Love.

**People: From the most challenging struggle to the most
wondrous delight, God’s love flows through
everything.**

Leader: Give love with open hands and you will find joy shining in
the surprises that undo us and transform us.

The pink candle of Joy is lit.

Leader: Love. Everything leans toward Love.

People: From the greatest ruler to the tiniest baby, God's love changes everything.

Leader: Prepare the way for love and you will find love shining in each and every breath that whispers: Emmanuel.

The purple candle of Love is lit, and the congregation sings:

Love is a flame that burns in our heart.

Jesus has come and will never depart.

Refrain:

When God is a child there's joy in our song.

The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.

***HYMN:** "Once In David's Royal City"

V62

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

Dear God, We thank you for giving us your peace. Help us to spread peace at home and at school by loving and caring for one another. Help us to spread peace by listening to one another, even when we don't agree. Help us to spread peace by sharing our time with those who are lonely and who need a friend. Help us to spread peace by thinking and praying for children who have no food or who are frightened and live in fear. Let us pray every day for peace for our families, for our friends and for ourselves. Amen.

[prayers-and-reflections-about-peace.pdf](#) accessed 12/15/2025

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 OFFERTORY

written by R.G. Huff (1949-2025)

*Advent Doxology

Tune: Irby

Praise to God, the one_ who made us. Praise to Christ, God's on - ly_

son. Praise the Spi - rit, ev - er_ with us. Praise the God - head, Three in_

One. Clear a path! Pre - pare the way! Ad - vent leads to Christ-mas Day!

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Welcome and Introduction	Karlee Etter
Narration	Gabriella D.
Scripture Reading: John 1:1-4, 5, 9-14, 18	Tyler G.

Sing: “This Little Light of Mine“

This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel? No!
I'm gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel? No!
I'm gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel? No!
I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

(back to beginning)

Narration

Gabriella D.

Scripture Readings Luke 1:26-38

Colton D.

Sienna B.

Sing: “Here I Am, Lord”

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Chorus: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide,
'til their hearts are satisfied,
I will give my life for them, whom shall I send?

Narration

Gabriella D.

Sing: “O Little Town of Bethlehem

[Mary & Joseph with baby enter the sanctuary and go up the aisle during song and take seats in chancel].

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting Light:
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.
For Christ is born of Mary, And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth.

Narration

Gabriella D.

Sing: “Away in a Manger”

[Child-angel with star goes and stands behind Mary and Joseph during this song.]

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
The little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Narration

Gabriella D.

Sing: “Angels We Have Heard on High”

[All the angels and shepherds move to the front.]

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains

Chorus: Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song

Narration

Gabriella D.

Sing: “Do You Hear What I Hear?”

[All animals move to the front during the singing of this Carol.]

Said the night wind to the little lamb,
"Do you see what I see?
Way up in the sky, little lamb,
"Do you see what I see?
A star, a star, dancing in the night
With a tail as big as a kite,
With a tail as big as a kite."

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy,
"Do you hear what I hear?
Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy,
"Do you hear what I hear?
A song, a song high above the trees
With a voice as big as the the sea,
With a voice as big as the the sea."

Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king,
"Do you know what I know?
In your palace warm, mighty king,
"Do you know what I know?
A child, a child shivers in the cold--
Let us bring him silver and gold,
Let us bring him silver and gold."

Narration

Gabriella D.

Sing: "We Three Kings

[Kings move to the front during singing and present their gifts one by one]

We three kings of orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain
Moor and mountain
Following yonder star

Chorus: O star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy perfect light

Glorious now behold Him arise
King and God and Sacrifice!
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia
Heaven to earth replies



Narration

Gabriella D.

Sing: “Go Tell It On the Mountain’

Chorus: Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere;

Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching O’er silent flocks by night,
Behold through-out the heavens There shone a holy light.

(chorus)

The shepherds feared and trembled When lo! Above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior’s birth.

(chorus)

Good News at Christmas

Rev. Cindy

***Sing:** “Joy to the World”

[Everybody leaves the front and returns to their pew while singing]

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room, And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature
sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns” Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his right-eous-ness, And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, And wonders, wonders of his love.

Merry Christmas!

BENEDICTION

Postlude: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Arr. by John Leavitt

*Those who are able, please stand.

Deacon is Jim Bennett. **Advent Candle lighting** by Wendy Civitello.
Camera Operator is Joan Bennett.

Poinsettias decorate the Sanctuary in celebration of the Christmas season. **Please join us for Fellowship Hour in Carroll Hall immediately following the service.**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Covenant to Care: Angel Tree – Due by Monday, 12/22 9:00 a.m.

Thank you to all who took Angel Tree tags and are purchasing Christmas presents for children in the community. Please have your wrapped gifts to the church by Monday, December 22nd, 2025, 9:00am.

If you would like to give a monetary gift, please submit a check to the church office with “Angel Tree” written in the memo line. The money will be used to supply other gifts for children. This has been a beloved project in our church for many years. Let’s provide a little joy in a child’s heart at this beautiful time of year.

Christmas Eve Candle Light Service: 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve) there will be a candle-light Lessons & Carols Service at 7:00 pm. It is a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Hope to see you there.

Special Offering for the Christmas Fund

The Christmas Fund is a special offering of the United Church of Christ which has provided assistance to UCC clergy and lay employees for more than 100 years. The Christmas Fund provides pension supplementation of pension and health insurance to lower-income retired clergy and lay employees, as well as a modest Christmas “thank-you” gift check and emergency assistance grants to a small number of active clergy and lay employees. This offering will be received on Sunday, Dec. 21st, and at the services on Christmas Eve.



Special Holiday Music Collection

We are excited to welcome some special guests and professional musicians to our 7:00PM Christmas Eve service this year. Their rehearsal time has already started (!), and we are hoping to have at least one full rehearsal with everyone in the sanctuary (in addition to their extra-early arrival time on Christmas Eve itself). Musically, we will be “weaving” their special lines of music into our favorite traditional Christmas carols using flute, violin, Bb clarinet, bass, and maybe more! It’s a unique and warm mix. There will be plenty of congregational singing, too, which is very highly encouraged!

The music Staff, Choir(s), and Mission Team are so grateful to those generous souls, past and present, who remember this “Special Music for Christmas/Easter” collection each year. They have helped give a professional pay rate to our guests at Christmas.

If you wish to donate online, you can click “Online Giving” on our website or go directly to our payment platform:

<https://giving.servantkeeper.com/nhu-3>

You can also use our trusty and pretty pink collection envelopes which have been distributed throughout the church by deacons and greeters. Thank you!



Poinsettia Dedications

Poinsettias decorate the sanctuary during the Advent season. These plants will later be distributed to our homebound members.

Contributions may be placed in the offering plates with the special envelope or made on the website through online giving (Poinsettia).

The contributions that exceed the cost of the poinsettias will be donated to Outreach for urgent community needs.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	12/21	9:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	WORSHIP: Christmas Pageant Tibetan American (K,CR, RR)
Monday	12/22	4:00 p.m.	BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
Tuesday	12/23	10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 6:00	Al-Anon (K) PLP (Library) BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
Wednesday	12/24	1:00 p.m. 7:00	WINDOW MAILING Danish Sisterhood (K & Kitch) CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
Thursday	12/25		CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED
Friday	12/26		OFFICE CLOSED
Saturday	12/27		
Sunday	12/28	9:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	WORSHIP: 1 st Sunday after Christmas Tibetan American (K,CR, RR)

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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: Bill & Robin Rose 12/26.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Rich Gallagher 12/22, Saydee Baldino 12/24,
Stephen Simonson 12/26, John Tibor 12/27.

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: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

V1

Unison Em Am Em

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el,
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high,
♦ 3 O come, O come, great God of might,
4 O come, O Rod of Jes - se's stem,
5 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come,

D Bm C Bm Em

and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el
who or - ders all things might i - ly;
♦ who to your tribes on Si - nai's height
from ev - ery foe de - liv - er them
and o - pen wide our heav - enly home;

Am Em Bm

that mourns in low - ly ex - ile here
to us the path of know - ledge show,
♦ in an - cient times once gave the law
that trust your might - y power to save,
make safe the way that leads on high,

Em D G Am Em

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 and teach us in her ways to go.
 ♦ in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.
 and close the path to mis - er - y.

Refrain G D Em Bm G Am Bm Em G Em Am Bm Em

Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man - u-el shall come to thee, O Is - ra-el.

6 O come, O Dayspring, from on high,
 and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadows put to flight.

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 all peoples in one heart and mind;
 O bid our sad divisions cease,
 and be for us the Prince of Peace.

Refrain

Refrain

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.

*HYMN: "Once In David's Royal City"

V62

Descant

4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who, with
 3 For he is our life - long pat - tern; dai - ly,
 4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his

own re - deem - ing love; for that child who seemed so

low - ly cat - tle - shed, where a moth - er laid her
 God, is ov - er all, and his shel - ter was a
 when on earth he grew, he was temp - ted, scorned, re -
 own re - deem - ing love; for that child who seemed so

help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he

ba - by in a man - ger for his bed. Ma - ry
 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall. There a -
 jec - ted, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he
 help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he

leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.

was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 mong the poor and low - ly lived on earth our Sav - iour ho - ly.
 feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.

Dreaming God's Dream

NO GIFT TOO SMALL, NO DREAM TOO BIG

Elizabeth Anderson
Larry Ballantyne
Martin & Patience Benassi
Jim & Joan Bennett
Mark & Laurel Bessette
Cheryl Bogert
Priscilla Bradford
Elaine & Sonny Burr
Mark & Martha Butterworth
Sandy Carter
Suzanne Cifelli
Ed & Mary Ellen Collett
Kim & Tom Coughlin
George & Florence Coulston
Susan Compton
Jim & Leslie Dockendorff
Laura & Dave Donle
Ken & Ann Dubar
Doris Ferner
Carl & Lillian Flodquist
Gail Fulop
Jody & Rich Gallagher
Sara & Brian Gannon
Merrilee & George Gladkosky
Wendy & Tom Glynn
Susan Guckert
Nancy Gutowski,
Peter & Cheryl Hall
Eleanor Harple
Kathleen Harple
Vivian Harris
Susan Beth & Robert Higgins
Carla & Michael Hill
Linda Howe
Bernard & Elfie Hummel
Barbara Joslyn

Roberta & Bruno Juliano
Linda Lacobelli
Dan & Lynn Lafleur
Carol Lasse
Nancy & Ken Mahoney
Ted & Joyce Manzo
Rhonda & John Masnato
Barbara & Rick Massey
Carol Mitchell
Kathleen & Robert Mickolyzck
Dave & Barbara Nelson
Lynne & Rob Nielsen
William Olmstead
Stephen & Mabel Peterson
Dot Pierce
Damon & Gressa Quinn
Jeanne Reardon
Lynn Reardon
Betsey Reid
Jane & Tom Romans
Robert Scheidecker
Adam & Julie Schweickert
Cheryl Solecki
Peter & Vicky Struk Jr.
John & Sue Tibor
Doris Vigliotto
Catherine Welch

With Thanks from the
Generosity Mission Team: Joan
Bennett, Cheryl Bogert, Priscilla
Bradford, Sue Cifelli, and Mabel
Peterson

Pledges as of 12-16-25

Love

