

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 28, 2025

9:30 a.m.

**First Sunday of Christmas
Family Sunday**

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Arranged. Eugenie Rocherolle

***OPENING HYMN:** “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

V60

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

People: **Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Let the seas roar and the mountains quake.**

Leader: Everything came into being through the Word. What came into being was life, and the life was the light for all people.

People: **Sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous things.**

Leader: The Word became flesh and blood, and lived among us to bring all people to the light.

People: **Let heaven and earth break forth into joyous song, singing praises to our God.**

Leader: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

All: **Christ, our light, shines forth in glory. Christ, our life, brings us grace and truth. Alleluia!**

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

Make us worthy, Lord, to serve our siblings throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger. Give them through our hands, this day their daily bread, and by our understanding love, give peace and joy. Amen. Mother Teresa

***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.

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

HYMN: "Hope Is a Star"

V7

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Psalm 98

P. 543

Praise the Judge of the World

A Psalm.

¹ O sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have gotten him victory.

² The LORD has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

³ He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.

⁴ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

⁵ Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.

⁶ With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.

⁷ Let the sea roar and all that fills it,
the world and those who live in it.

⁸ Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy

⁹ at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming
to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

HERE ENDS THE READING.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

HYMN: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

V 48

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: John 1: 1-5

The Good News Translation

The Word of Life

1 In the beginning the Word already existed; the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** From the very beginning the Word was with God. **3** Through him God made all things; not one thing in all creation was made without him. **4** The Word was the source of life,^[a] and this life brought light to people. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

SERMON: “Let Heaven and Nature Sing”

Rev. Cindy

PASTORAL CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PASTORAL PRAYER Choral Response

THE OFFERTORY

*Doxology

Tune: Old Hundredth

Praise God for gifts of hope and peace,
Praise God for gifts of joy and love,
Praise God for sending Christ to dwell,
On earth for us—Emmanuel. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

***CLOSING HYMN** “Joy to the World”

V59

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: As with Gladness Men of Old

Arr. by John Leavitt

*Those who are able, please stand.

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Deacon is Sandy Carter.

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

In Our Prayers This Week are: The family of Michael Heany, 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

Safety Mission Team

We have been considering ways in which to make our church safer for members and visitors. The Safety Team has met with people from both the police and fire departments to get some advice. One plan we will initiate in the very near future is locking the doors on Sunday morning shortly after the service has started. Anyone who arrives late will have to ring the doorbell at the elevator entrance to be let in. Thanks for your cooperation. We all want our church to be a safe place.

Cheryl Bogert, for the Safety Mission Team

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	12/28	9:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	WORSHIP: First Sunday after Christmas Tibetan American (K,CR, RR)
Monday	12/29	1:00 p.m. 4:00	FOOD PANTRY OPEN BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
Tuesday	12/30	10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 6:00	Al-Anon (K) PLP (Library) BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
Wednesday	12/31		New Year's Eve
Thursday	1/1		New Years Day: Office Closed
Friday	1/2	10:00 a.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Saturday	1/3	7:30 a.m.	MENS FELLOWSHIP (CH)
Sunday	1/4	9:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	WORSHIP: Second Sunday after Christmas Tibetan American (K,CR, RR)

*Small print indicates non-Church function

Bold print starts new day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Edward Collett 12/29, Elfie Hummel 12/30, Tanner DiVito 12/30, Alec DiVito 12/30, Bill Rose 12/31, Evan Schweickert 01/01, Genoveive Doyon 01/01, Lily Corcoran 01/02.

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.

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
Susan Compton
Kim & Tom Coughlin
George & Florence Coulston
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
Ross Lanius
Carol Lasse
Nancy & Ken Mahoney
Ted & Joyce Manzo
Rhonda & John Masnato
Barbara & Rick Massey
Jeanne & William Mecca
Kathleen & Robert Mickolyzck
Carol Mitchell
Bryant & Sara Munson
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
Stephen & Linda Simonson
Cheryl Solecki
Peter & Vicky Struk Jr.
John & Sue Tibor
Doris Vigliotto
Catherine Welch

Pledges as of 12-22-25

With Thanks from the Generosity
Mission Team: Joan Bennett, Cheryl
Bogert, Priscilla Bradford, Sue
Cifelli, and Mabel Peterson
Pledges as of 12-22-25

*OPENING HYMN: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

V60

G D G D G C G D

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2 God of God, light of light,
 ♦ 3 Sing, choirs of ang - els, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 See how the shep - herds sum - moned to his cra - dle,
 5 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn- ing;

Em D A D G D G D A D

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem:
 lo, he ab - hors not the vir - gin's womb;
 ♦ sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove;
 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh with low - ly fear;
 Je - sus, to thee be glo - ry given;

G Am G Am G D G Em Am D

come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 ve - ry God, be - got - ten, not cre - a - ted:
 ♦ glo - ry to God in the high - est:
 we too will thi - ther bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
 word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain G D

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,
 ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,

G D7 G D Em D G C G D G

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.
 ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.

HYMN: "Hope is a Star" v1

V 7

Unison

C

1 Hope is a star that shines in the night,
 2 Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
 3 Joy is a song that comes in the dawn,
 4 Love is a flame that burns in our heart,

F C Dm7 Fmaj7 Gsus4 G

lead - ing us on till the morn - ing is bright.
 giv - ing a prom - ise of safe - ty and worth.
 tell - ing the world that the Sav - iour is born.
 Je - sus has come and will nev - er de - part.

F C Dm7 Fmaj7 Gsus4 G

Refrain

Am F G C Am

When God is a child, there's joy in our song. The last shall be

F G C Am F Dm7 C

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

F G C Am F Dm7 C

HYMN: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

V 48

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new- born King,
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ - teous- ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see, hail, the in - car - nate de - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

CHRISTMAS

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new- born King!"

*CLOSING HYMN “Joy to the World”

V59



1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth! the Sa - viour reigns: let all their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the earth with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions



King! Let ev - ery heart pre - pare him
 ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and
 ground: he comes to make his bless - ings
 prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room, and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



and heaven and na - ture sing, and na - ture sing.
 sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound-ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.



heaven and na - ture sing,



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