

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, January 4, 2026

9:30 a.m.

**Epiphany Sunday
The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: Sleep, Little Jesus

Arr by W. Palmer

***OPENING HYMN:** “What Star Is This, With Beams So Bright” P144

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: We gather wondering, ‘Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?’

People: We will find the Babe in the laughter of children, in the laughter of grandparents.

Leader: We gather asking, ‘Where will we find the Child of Christmas?’

People: We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope, where the oppressed are set free.

Leader: We gather wanting to know, where will we find the Christ who has come for us?

People: We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace, where hatred is overwhelmed by love, where all people are overwhelmed by joy. ##

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

God of all people, by the light of a star, you called seekers from afar, revealing your Son to all nations. May the light of your love open our hearts to the whole human family.

God of compassion, we recall how the questions of the Magi, were met with Herod’s violence and Rachel’s inconsolable grief. May the light of your peace illuminate our world so full of conflict.

God of grace, the wise ones found the child, the Light of the World, and travelled home by another way. May your guiding light lead us to Jesus and the new ways of your kingdom.

In the days ahead, as we journey as pilgrims of hope, may we walk together in constant trust and faithful sharing of our gifts, seeking the wisdom of your word, and following the light of Christ. Amen. CAFOD - Catholic international development

<https://cafod.org.uk/> accessed 12/30/2025

***THE GLORIA PATRI**

P 513

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 FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 60: 1-6

Pg 679

The Ingathering of the Dispersed

60 Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

² For darkness shall cover the earth
and thick darkness the peoples,
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together; they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

ANTHEM: Over My Head (There is Music in the Air")

American Spiritual, arr. John L Bell

Sung by the Chancel Choir

Peter Froment, solo

The Visit of the Magi

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east^[b] and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah^[c] was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

MEDITATION: “Following Their Lead”

Rev. Cindy

PASTORAL CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

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

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Preparation Hymn: “As We Gather at Your Table”

V457

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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

People: In the winter of our lives, Tender God, our passion for following Jesus, wilts in the chill of indifference. We could walk in the light, but tiptoe through the shadows of missed chances. We could look for you glory in others, but gaze instead in the mirror of selfishness, seeing our desires staring back at us. We could gather the broken of the world to our side, but hold them at arm’s length from us.

Forgive us, Redeeming Grace. Jesus was bringing life and hope to all people. With grace and truth, he calls us to follow. Filling us with peace, he gathers us up and brings us home to you, serving as our Sibling, our Savior, our Friend.

Silence is kept

Leader: Grace upon grace; mercy upon mercy; hope upon hope; these are the gifts God pours out on us in this moment, and the moments of our lives to come.

People: Thanks be to God! We are filled to overflowing with God’s tender love and peace. We are forgiven! 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 Great Thanksgiving

Leader: May the Child of Bethlehem be born in you.

People: And in your heart as well.

Leader: Children of God, lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the One who came to us that first Christmas day.

Leader: People of God, give thanks to the One who is always with us.

People: O come, O come, Emmanuel, to feed us at your table.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

When you were weary of chaos as your companion, Everlasting God,
you whispered to the Word who sang

Creation's song:

Mountains sprang to attention,
rivers and oceans splashed your feet,
and the dust from the Carpenter's table
was gathered up and shaped in your image.

Spirit breathed life into us, that we might dance with you forever.

But when we looked beyond your glory, and saw the shiny
temptations the world dangled before our eyes, we rushed to embrace
sin and death. Yet you looked past our rebellion, seeing the people we
could become, and so you sent Isaiah and Hannah, Simeon and Anna
as your faithful witnesses. When we continued to turn up the world's
volume to drown out your pleas, you sent the Word of Hope in the
silence of a stable.

Therefore, we join with the angels of Bethlehem's skies, and all those
who sing of your steadfast love, in every time and place:

**People: Holy are you, God of Christ-filled mornings. All creation
remembers your steadfast love and faithfulness, breaking out in
joyous song: 'Hosanna in the highest!'**

**Blessed is the One who brings us the victory of God. Hosanna in
the highest!**

As we remember Immanuel coming to us, we would keep awake,
preparing ourselves to live out that mystery we call faith:

**People: In the beginning, Christ was with you, creating life: on the
cross, Christ dies with you, defeating death; from the empty tomb,
Christ rose with you, bringing salvation; from glory, Christ will
come again with you, the Light which could not be overcome. ##**

On the night before Jesus died, he took a loaf of bread, gave thanks,
broke it, and said,

“Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me.”

After supper, Jesus took the cup, and poured, saying, “This is the new
covenant, remember me.”

Let us share in the bread and the cup.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

People: Eternal God, pour out your Holy Spirit on all of us gathered here, that we who walked in darkness might walk forth in the light of Christ. Shine your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine, so that your glorious grace and love might flow through us as the very presence of Christ. As we receive these gifts, may we shine forth as your people, that the glory of Christ might be revealed for all to see. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN: “I Am the Light of the World”** V87

John Strathdee, 1969

In response to a “Christmas Poem” by Howard Thurman 1948

***THE BENEDICTION**

THE POSTLUDE: We Three Kings

by John Henry Hopkins

Arr. By Eugenie Rocherolle

*Those who are able, please stand.

Today’s service prayers are from Thom M. Shuman’s Playing Hopscotch in Heaven Lectionary Liturgies for RCL A.

Music reprinted and streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-719615. All rights reserved.

Deacon is Jim Bennett. **Greeter** is Joan Bennett. **Scripture Reader** is Jim Bennett. **Communion Servers** are Jim and Joan Bennett. **Camera Operator** is Damon Quinn.

Join us for Fellowship Hour following worship.

Welcome Rev. Margret Hofmeister!

We are pleased to welcome The Rev. Margret Hofmeister, Area Conference Minister, Southwest Region of the Southern New England Conference, UCC.

Rev. Margret Hofmeister supports and resources clergy, congregations, and associations of the Southwest region in their efforts to live the love and justice of Jesus in their locale.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Kimberly Noel 01/05, Karlee Etter 01/05, Carl Flodquist 01/06, Bradley Schweickert 01/07.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: Suzanne & Nigel Light 01/18

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Meeting and Annual Reports – the annual Meeting of the Congregation is scheduled for Sunday, January 25. Annual Reports will be available in the office starting Friday, January 16th, and at Sunday Worship on January 18th. Mission Teams and staff, if you have not already done so, please submit your reports to the office.

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

Food Pantry needs: Bottles of apple juice, crackers, pasta sauce, canned mixed vegetables, and cereal.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	1/4	9:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	WORSHIP: Second Sunday after Christmas Tibetan American (K,CR, RR)
Monday	1/5	1:00 p.m. 1:00 4:00	FOOD PANTRY OPEN Retired Fed. Employees (CH) BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
Tuesday	1/6	10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 6:00	Al-Anon (K) PLP (Library) BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
Wednesday	1/7	10:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN Lions Club (CH)
Thursday	1/8	2:30 p.m. 6:30 7:00	FOOD COUNCIL (K) Mothers of Twins (K) CHANCEL CHOIR
Friday	1/9	10:00 a.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Saturday	1/10		
Sunday	1/11	9:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	WORSHIP: Third Sunday after Christmas Tibetan American (K,CR, RR)

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

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 Mickolyszck
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 1-2-26

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

***OPENING HYMN: "What Star Is This, With Beams So Bright" P144**

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, More love - ly
2 'Tis now ful - filled what God de - creed, "From Ja - cob
3 O Je - sus, while the star of grace Im - pels us
4 To God the Fa - ther, heaven - ly Light, To Christ, re -

than the noon - day light? 'Tis sent to announce a new - born
shall a star pro - ceed"; And lo! the east - ern sa - ges
on to seek thy face, Let not our sloth - ful hearts re -
vealed in earth - ly night, To God the Ho - ly Ghost we

king, Glad ti - dings of our God to bring.
stand, To read in heaven the Lord's com - mand.
fuse The guid - ance of thy light to use.
raise An end - less song of thank - ful praise! A - men.

The musical score is written for a four-part vocal choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 3/4. The score is divided into three systems, each with a vocal staff and a piano accompaniment staff. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

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

Preparation Hymn: "As We Gather at Your Table"

V457

F Gm7 F Dm Bb C

1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we list - en
2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra -
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to

Bb F Gm7 F Dm

to your word, help us know, O God, your pres - ence;
ment of life, send us forth to love and serve you,
share that feast where tri - umph - ant Love will wel - come

Dm Bb C7 Bb F C

let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nour - ish us with sa - cred
bring - ing peace where there is strife. Give us, Christ, your great com -
those who had been last and least. There no more will en - vy

Dm Am F Bb C Dm

sto - ry till we claim it as our own, teach us through this
pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave, may we still be -
blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy, as we join with

Dm7 Gm7 Bb F Gm7 Am Gm Gm7 F

ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

Refrain (Unison)

“I am the light of the world! You peo-ple come and fol-low

me!” If you fol-low and love you’ll learn the mys-te-ry of

what you were meant to do and be.

1 When the song of the an-gels is
2 — To find the lost and lone-ly
3 — To free the pris-oner from all
4 To bring hope to ev-ery task you

stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the
one, to heal the bro-ken soul with love, to
chains, to make the pow-er-ful care, to
do, to dance at a ba-by’s new birth, to