

FOUNDED 1716  
*North Haven*  
*Congregational Church*  
United Church of Christ



**Son, Rise**  
by T. Denise Anderson  
Inspired by John 9:1-7

North Haven, Connecticut  
*An Open & Affirming Congregation*

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

**Sunday, March 15, 2026**

**9:30 a.m.**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness by Paul Kickstat

**\*OPENING HYMN:** “We Come With Questions” Insert

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Scripture is full of questions...

**People: Where are you?**

Leader: Am I my brother's keeper?

**People: Whom shall I send?**

Leader: Who do you say that I am?

**People: Who sinned?**

Leader: How many times shall I forgive?

**People: If God is for us, who can be against us?**

Leader: Scripture is full of questions, so just like those in our scriptures, may we bring our full curiosity and wonder into this space.

**People: Let us ask and seek after our merciful God. \*\***

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

**O mighty and righteous God**

**You call us to loose the bonds of injustice**

**To let the oppressed go free**

**To break every yoke. Lead us to this transformation God of life.**

**Lead us to peace. Amen. ##**

**\*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.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION and Assurance of Pardon ~ Unison**

Leader: Who here has sinned?

**People: We have sinned. We put our heads in the sand. We ignored people in need. We make false assumptions and fail to be kind. We are in need of forgiveness.**

*Silence is kept.*

Leader: Good news! Our God is a merciful God. God does not punish, hold grudges, or keep score. When you suffer, God weeps. When you sin, God forgives. When you lose your way, God comes running.

**People: Thanks be to God for a love like that. \*\***

## **GREETING OF PEACE**

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 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**

**\*THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: "The King of Love" V273**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm set to St. Colomba an ancient Irish Melody

**THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: John 9: 1-41 Page 1246**

### **A Man Born Blind Receives Sight**

**9** As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. **2** His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" **3** Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. **4** We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. **5** As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." **6** When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, **7** saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to

see. <sup>8</sup> The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup> Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” <sup>10</sup> But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” <sup>11</sup> He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” <sup>12</sup> They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

### **The Pharisees Investigate the Healing**

<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup> Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” <sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. <sup>17</sup> So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

<sup>18</sup> The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup> and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” <sup>20</sup> His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, <sup>21</sup> but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” <sup>22</sup> His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup> Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

<sup>24</sup> So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” <sup>25</sup> He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” <sup>26</sup> They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” <sup>27</sup> He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” <sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but

we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” <sup>30</sup> The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup> Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” <sup>34</sup> They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

### **Spiritual Blindness**

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” <sup>36</sup> He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” <sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” <sup>38</sup> He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” <sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” <sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

HERE ENDS THE READING

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

**THE GIFT OF MUSIC:** “Just a Little Talk with Jesus”

Words and Music by  
The Rev. Cleavant Derricks  
Sung by the Chancel Choir

**SERMON:** “Failing to See”

Rev. Cindy

**\*PEOPLE RESPONSE:**

V220

Here is the myst'ry we claim as the followers of Jesus:  
Christ has died, Christ is raised, Christ daily comes to redeem us  
Grace free, not earned, whether or not we deserve  
God works beyond rules and bound'ries

**PASTORAL CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

Choral Response

## THE OFFERTORY

\*Doxology

Old 100th

"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done;

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One." (United Church of Christ version).

\*Prayer of Dedication

**Light of the World, our cup overflows with gratitude for all that you have given us. Accept the tokens we offer you today and use them for the healing of the world. Amen. \*\***

\***CLOSING HYMN** "Be Thou My Vision"

V 642

## THE BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE** The Heavens Declare the Glory

by William Barnett

\*Those who are able, please stand.

\*\* Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)

## Reprinted by permission from <https://www.saintjoanofarc.org/liturgy-music/peace-prayers> ;  
retrieved 4/1/20 Music reprinted and streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-719615. All rights reserved.

**Deacon** is Jim Bennett. **Greeter** is Beth Anderson. **Camera Operator** is Damon Quinn. **Please join us for Fellowship in Carroll Hall immediately following the service.**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Joseph Mulvey 03/17, Jeffrey Jennings 03/18, Hunter Coughlin 03/20, Ann Schneider 03/21.

**In Our Prayers This Week are:**

The Rev. Deb Ruotolo, Lee Guckert, Melanie Howlett, Linda Rankin, Linda Shannon, Marlene Bellonio, Meg Adams, Ann Schneider, and Charlotte Shea.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**One Great Hour of Sharing collection will be received TODAY.**

**Covenant To Care**

Thank you to all who took an Easter Tag and will be filling a basket. The baskets need to be brought back to the church by March 29th. If you wish to give money, send a check to the church with Covenant to Care on the memo line. Thank you for your continued support of our community.

**Easter Lilies Offering:** With the arrival of spring and its early signs of emergence of flowers and shrubs, we remind you of the Easter Lily Special offering that has been a part of our Easter tradition for many years. As most of you know, the lilies allow us to give a memorial to our family members and beautify the sanctuary for Easter Sunday. They are distributed to our shut-ins and ill members after the service. We invite your contribution toward the purchase of Easter Lilies for the sanctuary. The best way to make a contribution is online through the website, or by email. Please note to whom the Lilies are dedicated. If you send your contribution by regular mail, please call the Church Office with your dedication, so we know it is coming. Your support is appreciated.

**Special Music Collection Fund Ongoing:** It feels so soon after Christmas this year that I am once again humbly asking for “Special Music” collections. We were so excited to welcome some very special guests and young professional musicians to our 7:00PM Christmas Eve service this past year. Joshua Peiffer, Gina Huang, and Edan Sabah are a wonderful combo of young musicians at a pro level! 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 (and multiple years of conservatory music study 100%! counts as pro! We are so proud of Joshua and his SURGING musicianship! “We knew him when...” . For Easter, we have become fond of our trumpet players and are hoping to have them back. 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>  
And select “Music - Special Collections”

You can also use our trusty and pretty pink collection envelopes distributed throughout the church. Thank you ever so much!

**Safety Mission Team:** In order to make our church safer for members and visitors, beginning on April 12, we will be locking all doors on Sunday morning 15 minutes after the service has started. There will be a sign on the main front door instructing anyone who arrives after 9:45 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\*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3/15</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 2:00 p.m.	<b>WORSHIP:</b> Fourth Sunday in Lent Tibetan American (K,CR, RR)
<b>Monday</b>	<b>3/16</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 1:00 p.m. 4:00 6:00 7:00	<b>Music Together (DBL)</b> FOOD PANTRY OPEN BIBLE STUDY (Zoom) CT Record Club (CH) Son's & Daughters of Italy (K)
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>3/17</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 10:00 10:30 12:00 p.m. 3:30 4:30 6:00	<b>Music Together (DBL)</b> Al-Anon (K) Music Together (DBL) PLP (Library) United Girls' Choir (CH, K, Sanct) Music Together (DBL) BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>3/18</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b> 1:00 p.m. 7:00	<b>WINDOW DEADLINE</b> <b>FOOD PANTRY OPEN</b> Danish Sisterhood (K & Kitch) Al-Anon District Family (K)
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>3/19</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>CHANCEL CHOIR</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>3/20</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) Al-Ateen (CH)
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>3/21</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Music Together (DBL)</b> Sons & Daughters of Italy: Corned Beef Dinner
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3/22</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 2:00	<b>WORSHIP:</b> Fifth Sunday in Lent Tibetan American (K,CR, RR)

\*Small print indicates non-Church function

**Bold print starts new day.**

### **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.

**\*OPENING HYMN: "We Come With Questions"**

Insert

Text: Anna Strickland (2022)

Music: Erneuertem Gesangbuch (1665)



We come with ques - tions as - sum - ing that  
Here is the mys - t'ry we claim as the  
God help us live in - to mys - t'ry be -



there will be an - swers Set - ting the  
fol - lowers of Je - sus: Christ has died,  
- yond com - pre - hen - sion Qui - et our



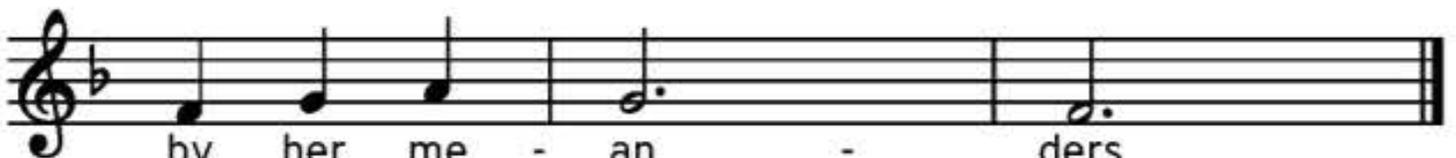
world in an or - der that o - beys our  
Christ is raised, Christ dai - ly comes to re -  
minds al - ways clam - or - ing for some di -



gram - mar We want to know  
- deem us Grace free, not earned,  
- rec - tion Give us your peace



where Spir - it's riv - er will flow Frus - trat - ed  
whe - ther or not we de - serve God works be -  
with all that we can't per - ceive Hold - ing us

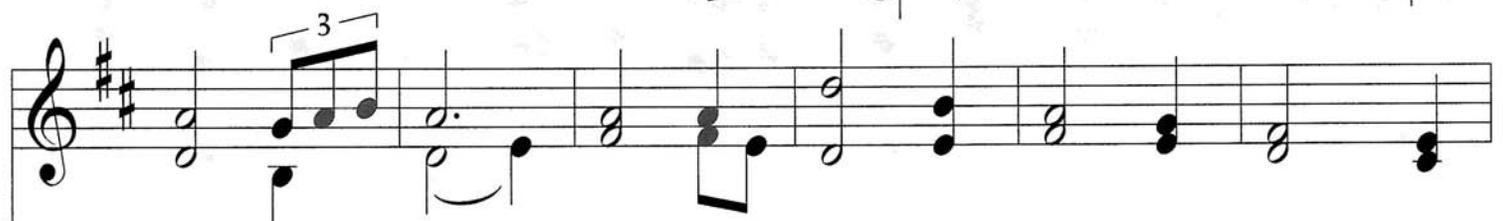


by her me - an - ders  
- yond rules and boun - d'ries  
with - in the ten - sion

\*THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: "The King of Love" V273



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness  
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow my ran - somed  
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed; but yet in  
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear  
 5 Thou spread'st a ta - ble in my sight; thy unc - tion  
 6 And so through all the length of days thy good - ness



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if I am  
 soul he lead - eth, and where the ver - dant pas - tures  
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der gent - ly  
 Lord, be - side me; thy rod and staff my com - fort  
 grace be - stow - eth; and O what trans - port of de -  
 fail - eth nev - er: Good Shep - herd, may I sing thy



his and he is mine for - ev - er.  
 grow with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
 laid, and home re - joic - ing brought me.  
 still, thy cross be - fore to guide me.  
 light from thy pure chal - ice flow - eth!  
 praise with - in thy house for - ev - er!



\*CLOSING HYMN "Be Thou My Vision"

V 642

Unison

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O joy of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, my calm in all strife;  
 ♦ 3 Be thou my bat - tle shield, sword for the fight;  
 4 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain emp - ty praise,  
 5 Great God of heav - en, af - ter vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me save that thou art,  
 I ev - er with thee, and thou in my life;  
 ♦ be thou my dig - ni - ty, thou my de - light,  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's sun!

thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
 thou lov - ing par - ent, thy child may I be,  
 ♦ thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tower;  
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing thy pres - ence my light.  
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.  
 ♦ raise thou me heav - en - ward, O power of my power.  
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vis - ion, O rul - er of all.



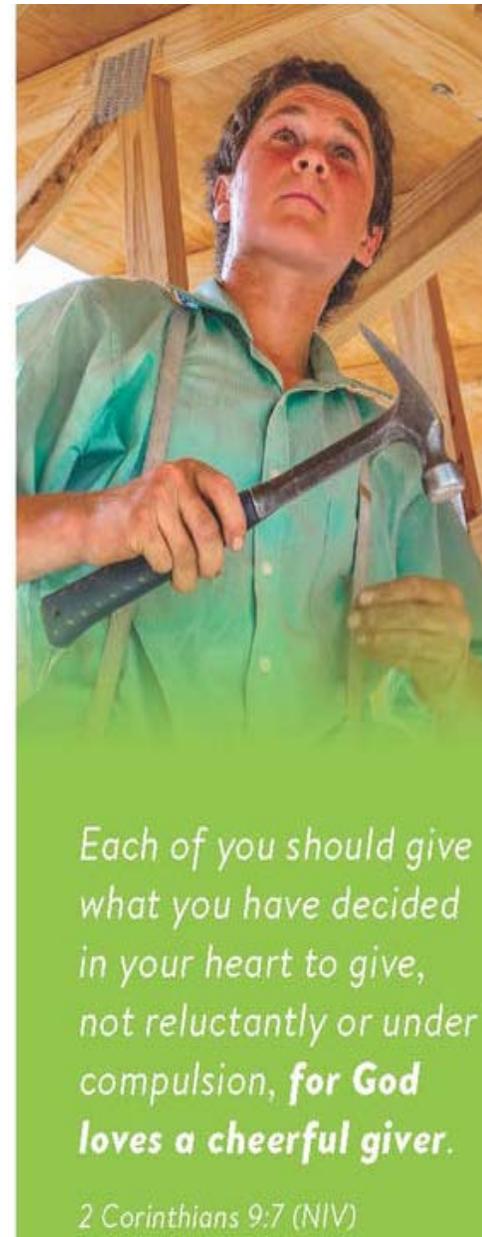
When you give to **One Great Hour of Sharing**, you are light for people in need. You offer light when disasters strike, and when chronic conditions threaten families and communities. You are light not just in the immediate future, but also for the long haul. When you give, you restore not only structures, but also transform lives. Your gift ensures that no matter how difficult the situation, light shines.

**Be the light. Give to One Great Hour of Sharing.**

**Your offering helps rebuild from disaster, feed the hungry, provide clean water to the thirsty, empower the oppressed, and restore hope.**

Orfelina works with families in the northern regions of Honduras to help them understand how to transform their families and communities through agriculture. The list of things she does is mindboggling: Checking on local farmers' harvest. Monitoring water projects. Teaching the women in the community how to prepare more nutritious meals for their families. Chatting up community leaders for support. Running workshops for things like creating organic fertilizers and sprays.

But Orfelina doesn't just work with farmers and their families, she supports and encourages them. Visiting them in their homes. Bringing God's light to everyone she meets. And all of this is made possible through your giving to One Great Hour of Sharing. Because of your giving, projects like these and thousands more around the world are changing lives. Transforming communities. And spreading God's light. Be the Light. Give to One Great Hour of Sharing.



**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