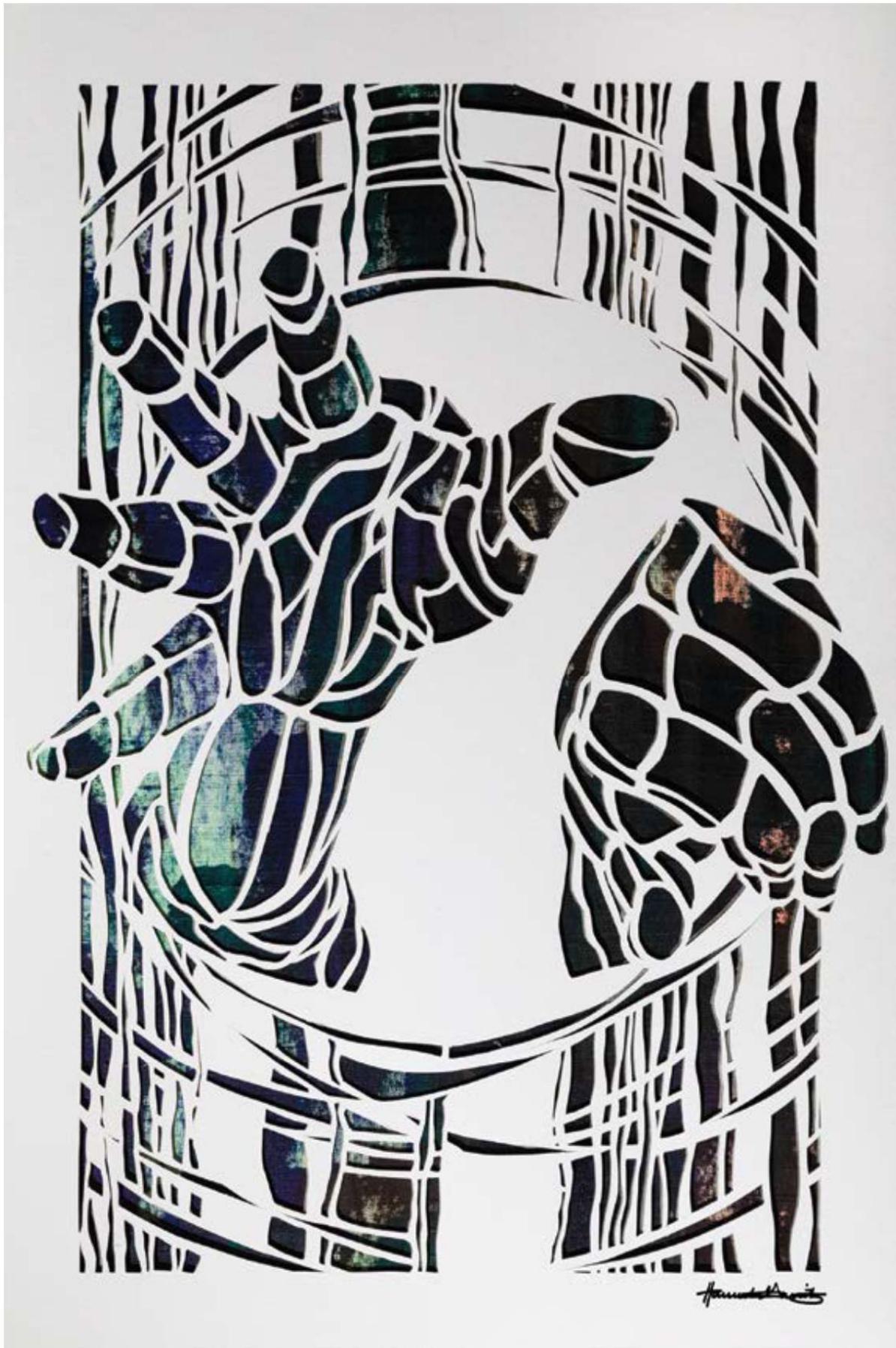


FOUNDED 1716  
*North Haven*  
*Congregational Church*  
United Church of Christ



**Unbind Him**  
by Hannah Garrity  
Inspired by John 11:1-45

North Haven, Connecticut  
*An Open & Affirming Congregation*

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

**Sunday, March 22, 2026**

**9:30 a.m.**

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

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE:** Contemplation at Sunrise

by Trygve Torjussen, Op. 4, No. 1  
arr by David Sarandon adapt by H. Meachen

**\*OPENING HYMN: “Now the Green Blade Rises” v 1,2 &4 V186**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Have you ever felt washed up, brittle, worn-down to the bone?

**People: Have you ever felt grief lay heavy on your back?**

Leader: Have you ever felt like hope was out of reach?

**People: Have you ever wondered, can these bones live?**

Leader: If you have, then you are in the right place, for this is God’s house. Hope lives here.

**People: So, come. Rest your weary bones.**

Leader: Let us worship Holy God. \*\*

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

**God of new beginnings, God of life and possibilities, as You awaken the frozen ground bringing spring to birth, awaken our frozen hearts to compassion for one another. Stir within us the work of Your 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

**Jesus of Nazareth,**

**I confess: I forget that you know this feeling.**

**I forget that you, too, have wept.**

**I forget that you, too, have lost.**

**I forget that you, too, have gathered at the tomb, have grieved for a friend, have felt the sting of humanity.**

**Forgive me for all the times I place blame on you.**

**Forgive me for all the times I create distance, imagining that you could never feel what I feel.**

**Forgive me for allowing the valley of dry bones to be a sea of space between us.**

**Pour yourself into the cracks in my heart. Bring these bones back to life. Bring me closer to you. With gratitude I pray, amen.**

*Silence is kept.*

Leader: Friends, you could spend your whole life ignoring God, pushing God away, or trying to solve the world's problems all on your own, and God would still love you all the same. Even in our shortcomings, we are God's beloved. So hear and believe this good news:

**People: We are saved by grace through faith. We belong to God. We are not alone.\*\***

## 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.

## NOISY OFFERING

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

# THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Psalm 130 responsively

## Psalm 130: I Will Wait For You

Words & Music by Jordan Kauflin,  
Matthew Merker, Keith Getty & Stuart Townend



I will wait for You, I will wait for You; on Your Word I will re - ly. I will  
5 wait for You, sure - ly wait for You, 'til my soul is sat - is - fied.

Out of the depths have I called to you.

O God, hear my cry!

Let your ears be attentive to my plea for mercy.

If you should keep account of what is done amiss,

O God, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you,  
therefore we will honour you. R



I wait for you, God;

my soul waits, and in your word is my hope.

My soul waits for God more than the watchers long for morning,  
more than the watchers long for morning.

O Israel, wait in hope,

for with God there is love unfailing.

With God is great power to redeem,  
to redeem you, Israel, from all your sins. R

\*HYMN: "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

V 382

## THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: John 11: 38-48 Page 1246

### Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." <sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." <sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

## The Plot to Kill Jesus

<sup>45</sup> Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him. <sup>46</sup> But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. <sup>47</sup> So the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the council and said, "What are we to do? This man is performing many signs. <sup>48</sup> If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and destroy both our holy place and our nation."

HERE ENDS THE READING

## THANKS BE TO GOD

**The Gift of Music: "I am the Bread of Life"**

Words & Music: Suzanne Toolan, RCM  
Sung by the Chancel Choir

**SERMON: "One for the Many"**

Rev. Cindy

**\*PEOPLE'S RESPONSE:**

V376

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

## 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

**From your hands, O God, come the blessings that make life possible, even the very gift of life itself. In gratitude and thanks, receive from our hands this portion of our labors. By your Spirit's leading, may we use these gifts to bless the life of others with the assurance of love, the promise of hope, and the course of justice. This we do to your glory. Amen.**

**\*THE BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE: God's Care**

by Ben Logan

**\*Those who are able, please stand.**

**\*\* Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org**

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719615. All rights reserved.**

**Deacon** is Sandy Carter. **Greeter** is Beth Anderson. **Scripture Reader** is Barbara Massey. **Camera Operator** is Joan Bennett. **Flowers** are provided by Sandy Carter, in memory of my beloved Grandson Jack Viele on his 37th Birthday. You are forever in my thoughts and prayers.

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

**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.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Lynn Lafleur 03/23, Elaine Burr 03/25, Sheree Alexander 03/27, Molly Mickolyzch 03/27, Mark Bessette 03/29.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:** Peter & Cheryl Hall 3/28, Bernie & Elfie Hummel 03/28.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Mission Team Update**

Barbara Massey from the Memorial Gifts Mission Team will give a short presentation about the Team prior to worship service.

**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>3/22</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 2:00	<b>WORSHIP:</b> Fifth Sunday in Lent Tibetan American (K,CR, RR)
<b>Monday</b>	<b>3/23</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 1:00 p.m. 4:00	<b>Music Together (DBL)</b> FOOD PANTRY OPEN BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>3/24</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 10:00 10:30 12:00 p.m. 3:30 6:00	<b>Music Together (DBL)</b> Al-Anon (K) Music Together (DBL) PLP (Library) United Girls' Choir (CH, K, Sanct) BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>3/25</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b> 1:00 p.m.	<b>WINDOW MAILING</b> <b>FOOD PANTRY OPEN</b> Danish Sisterhood (K & Kitch)
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>3/26</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>CHANCEL CHOIR</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>3/27</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>FOOD PANTRY OPEN</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>3/28</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Crop:Crafting Event (CH)</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3/29</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 2:00	<b>WORSHIP:</b> Palm Sunday 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.

**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

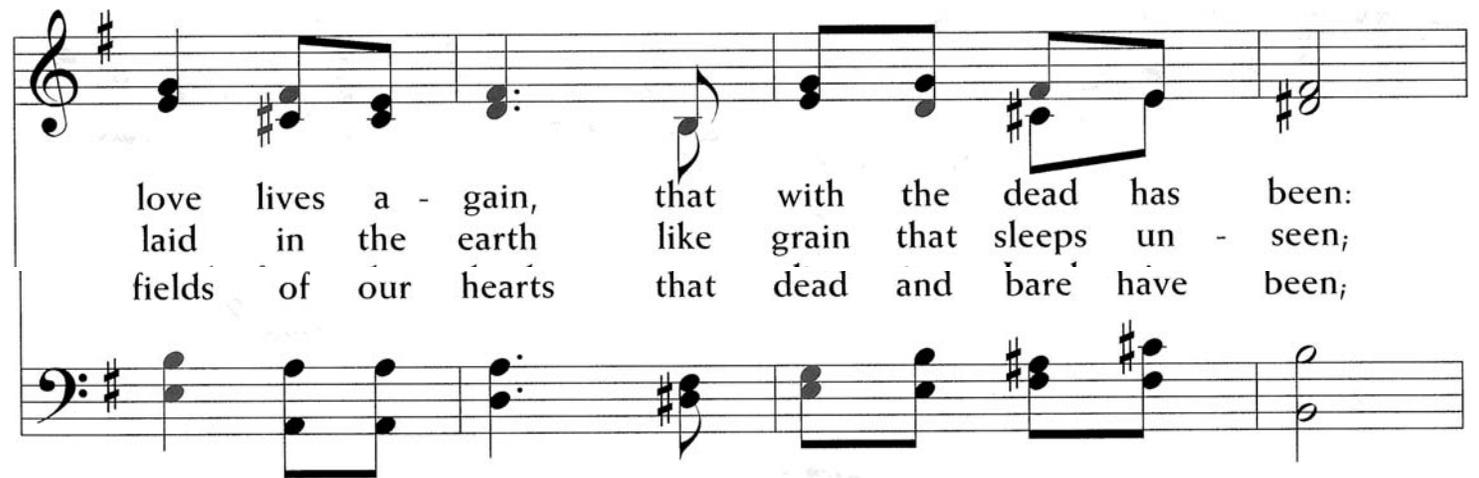
**\*OPENING HYMN: "Now the Green Blade Rises" v 1,2 &4 V186**



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
2 In the grave they laid him, love by hat - red slain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
think - ing that he would ne - ver wake a - gain,  
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain, like wheat a - ris - ing green.

F Bb Bbm F Bb G7 C

1 Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life a - new,  
 2 Breathe on me, breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,  
 1 Souf - fle du Dieu vi - vant, a - ni - me tout en moi;  
 2 Souf - fle du Dieu vi - vant, viens pu - ri - fier ma foi;

F (C F) Bb Gm F C7 F

that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.  
 un - til my will is one with thine, to do and to en - dure.  
 que ton a - mour me rende ai - mant, ser - vant ain - si que toi.  
 que ce soit ton vou - loir puis - sant qui s'ac - com - plisse en moi.

3 Breathe on me, breath of God,  
 till I am wholly thine,  
 until this earthly part of me  
 glows with thy fire divine.

3 Souffle du Dieu vivant,  
 mets ton feu dans mon coeur;  
 que tout en moi soit rayonnant  
 de ton éclat, Seigneur.

4 Breathe on me, breath of God:  
 so shall I never die,  
 but live with thee the perfect life  
 of thine eternity.

4 Souffle du Dieu vivant,  
 écarte enfin la mort;  
 que pour jamais, dès maintenant,  
 j'appartienne au Dieu fort.

\*CLOSING HYMN "How Firm a Foundation"

V 660

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, you ser - vants of God,  
 2 "Fear not, I am with you; O be not dis - mayed!  
 ♦ 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call you to go,  
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,  
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent word!  
 For I am your God and will still give you aid;  
 ♦ the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;  
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply:  
 I will not — I will not de - sert to his foes;

What more can be said than to you has been said,  
 I'll strength - en and help you, and cause you to stand,  
 ♦ for I will be with you, your trou - bles to bless,  
 the flame shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign  
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - our to shake,

to you who for re - fuge to Je - sus have fled?  
 up - held by my righ - teous om - ni - po - tent hand.  
 ♦ and sanc - ti - fy to you your deep - est dis - tress.  
 your dross to con - sume, and your gold to re - fine.  
 I'll nev - er — no, nev - er — no, nev - er for - sake!"

