

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, April 26, 2026

9:30 a.m.

**Fourth Sunday of Easter
The Noisy Offering**

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***OPENING HYMN: "For the Beauty of the Earth"**

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***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Church, where do you see God?

**We see God in the wide reach of sky,
in the towering height of mountains,
in the depths of the sea,
and in the vividness of flowers.**

Church, where else do you see God?

**We see God in early morning sunrises,
in the quiet after a snow,
in the reaching of rivers and tributaries,
and in the stars that light the night.**

And in your seeing, what do you know?

**We know that God is here,
and we know that God is good.**

Let us worship the God of creation!

Let us worship our with-us God.**

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

God of Peace, You created the heavens and the earth, and all that we see and experience all around us. After each day of creation, you said "It is Good." But the world as we experience it is not always good. In fact, we often struggle to find good. Our peace depends on the Presence of your Spirit.

This morning, as we prepare our hearts and minds to worship you, we pray that your peace would fill our lives. Help us to see the world as you see it. May our hearts be broken by the sin that runs rampant in our world, at the systemic sin that seems to rule our lives. May our eyes be open to see signs of peace, signs of your

grace. May our hearts be open to experience the love that you show to this world, brought to life in the life, death, and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ. May we live our lives as those who seek your peace, that the world might be a different place. Guide us by the power of your Holy Spirit into the peace you have promised us. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen. *Chris Jacobsen is pastor of Abundant Life Reformed Church in Wyckoff, New Jersey.*

***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.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION: ~unison

Creator God, We have lost our way. In the beginning, humanity was instructed to care for creation. However, in pursuit of our own wealth and efficiency, we have done the opposite. The oceans are heavy with plastic. The ice caps are melting by the hour. Animals and plants are treated as a means to an end. Corporations fill the atmosphere with pollution. Policies and practices are slow to change.

Forgive us, O God.

Bring us back to the garden. Fill our hearts with compassion for your world. Show us where we can make a difference, and help us to see your fingerprints in every glimpse of the natural world. With hope in our hearts for a better day, we pray: Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Friends, when it comes to creation care, we have a lot to confess. But even here, even now, God's grace for us is like a mighty rushing stream. So trusting in God's unrelenting mercy, may we be inspired to action. Join me in proclaiming these words of forgiveness:

Just as flowers that bloom after the fire, there is nothing that God cannot redeem. We are known. We are loved. We are made new. So may we roll up our sleeves and get our hands dirty with the work of justice, with the work of compassion, with the work of mercy. Thanks be to God for this new day! Alleluia! 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

THE NOISY OFFERING

Karlee Etter

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Psalm 8

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Divine Majesty and Human Dignity

To the leader: according to The Gittith. A Psalm of David.

¹ O Lord, our Sovereign,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

² Out of the mouths of babes and infants

you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,

to silence the enemy and the avenger.

³ When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars that you have established;

⁴ what are humans that you are mindful of them,

mortals that you care for them?

⁵ Yet you have made them a little lower than God

and crowned them with glory and honor.

⁶ You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;

you have put all things under their feet,

⁷ all sheep and oxen,

and also the beasts of the field,

⁸ the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,

whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

⁹ O Lord, our Sovereign,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

* **HYMN:** "Restless Weaver"

Insert

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from heaven!

Praise God on the heights!

² Praise God, all of you who are his messengers!

Praise God, all of you who comprise his heavenly forces!

³ Sun and moon, praise God!

All of you bright stars, praise God!

⁴ You highest heaven, praise God!

Do the same, you waters that are above the sky!

⁵ Let all of these praise the Lord's name

because God gave the command and they were created!

⁶ God set them in place always and forever.

God made a law that will not be broken.

⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth,

you sea monsters and all you ocean depths!

⁸ Do the same, fire and hail, snow and smoke,

stormy wind that does what God says!

⁹ Do the same, you mountains, every single hill,

fruit trees, and every single cedar!

¹⁰ Do the same, you animals—wild or tame—

you creatures that creep along and you birds that fly!

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

GIFT OF MUSIC: Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal

Tune: Traditional American, "*Invitation*"

Text attributed to F.R. Warren

arr. Craig Carnahan & Alice Parker (1925-2023)

Sung by Chancel Choir

SERMON: "East of Eden"

Rev. Cindy

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Restless Weaver, ever spinning threads of justice and shalom;
dreaming patterns of creation where all creatures find a home;
gathering up life's varied fibers - every texture, every hue:
grant us your creative vision. With us weave your world anew.

PASTORAL CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Choral Response

THE OFFERTORY

*Doxology

Tune: Lasst uns erfruen

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

Prayer of Dedication

Creator God, your gifts overwhelm us. We thank you for sharing this amazing creation with us. We praise you for the glory of being created in your very image. We pray that these gifts may reflect the glory of your image and go forth to truly bless your creation upon this earth. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN: “Here I Am, Lord”**

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***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

*Those who are able, please stand.

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

*** Tune: Text; Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. Gilbert H. Vieira, 1978.
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Deacon is Peter Hall. **Scripture Reader** is Sandy Carter.

The Greeter is Beth Anderson.

Today’s flowers are given by Susan Compton in celebration of her son Brian’s birthday.

Join us for Fellowship Hour in Carroll Hall following worship.

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
Carol Mitchell, Bridge Administrator
Dave Nelson, Sexton

In Our Prayers This Week are: The Rev. Deb Ruotolo, Lee Guckert, Melanie Howlett, Linda Rankin, Linda Shannon, Marlene Bellonio, Meg Adams, Ann Schneider, Charlotte Shea, Michael Hill and the family and friends of Tim Peiffer.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Paula Diehl 4/26, Tyler Karasinski 4/26, Danny Malone 4/26, Danielle Powers 4/29, Rhonda Masnato 5/1.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: Michael & Pamela Trepanier 4/25, Kevin & Cheryl Studley 4/30, Carla & Michael Hill 5/1.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remember to get your new reusable shopping bag! Our food Pantry has been chosen by the North Haven Stop and Shop for the **month of April** to receive a donation of \$1.00 for each \$2.50 bag purchased. This is a good way to support the Food Pantry and reduce the use of paper and plastic bags.

The Pierpont Concert on May 2 at 7:00 p.m. will feature the United Girls' Choir, a very talented group of young singers. Tickets are available now. Help will be needed with refreshments, set up and clean up. Sign up to help during Fellowship Hour. Thanks!

North Haven Community Prayer Breakfast will be held on May 7th at the Clarion Inn, 201 Washington Ave. from 7:30 -9:00 a.m. The theme this year is *Prayer and the Shaping of a Nation*. A full breakfast will be served and it will be a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together in unity, encouragement, and faith. Reserve your seat soon. This event is free to our community, and seating is limited. Contact Jim Detweiler (203-234-7328) at Hope Christian Church, for information.

Women's Fellowship Craft & Tag Sale – May 9 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Help is needed. Spaces are available for your personal craft or tag sale. Contact the church office or sign up in Carroll Hall after worship. We have lots of interesting items for our Tag Sale. Come and see what bargains you can find on Saturday May 9th!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	4/26	9:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m. 6:00	WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream) Tibetan American (K, CR) AA (CH)
Monday	4/27	9:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.	Music Together FOOD PANTRY OPEN WOMENS' BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
Tuesday	4/28	9:30 a.m. 9:30 10:30 12:00 p.m. 3:00 4:30 6:00	Al-Anon (K) Music Together (DBL) Music Together (DBL) PLP (CH) United Girls' Choir (CH,DBL,S) Music Together (DBL) BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
Wednesday	4/29	9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Music Together (DBL) FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Thursday	4/30	7:00 p.m.	CHANCEL CHOIR
Friday	5/01	9:30 a.m. 10:00 10:30	Music Together (DBL) FOOD PANTRY OPEN Music Together (DBL)
Saturday	5/02	7:30 a.m. 8:30 9:30 10:30	MENS FELLOWSHIP (CH) Music Together (DBL) Music Together (DBL) Music Together (DBL)
Sunday	5/03	9:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m. 6:30	WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream) Tibetan American (K,CR) AA (CH)

*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:

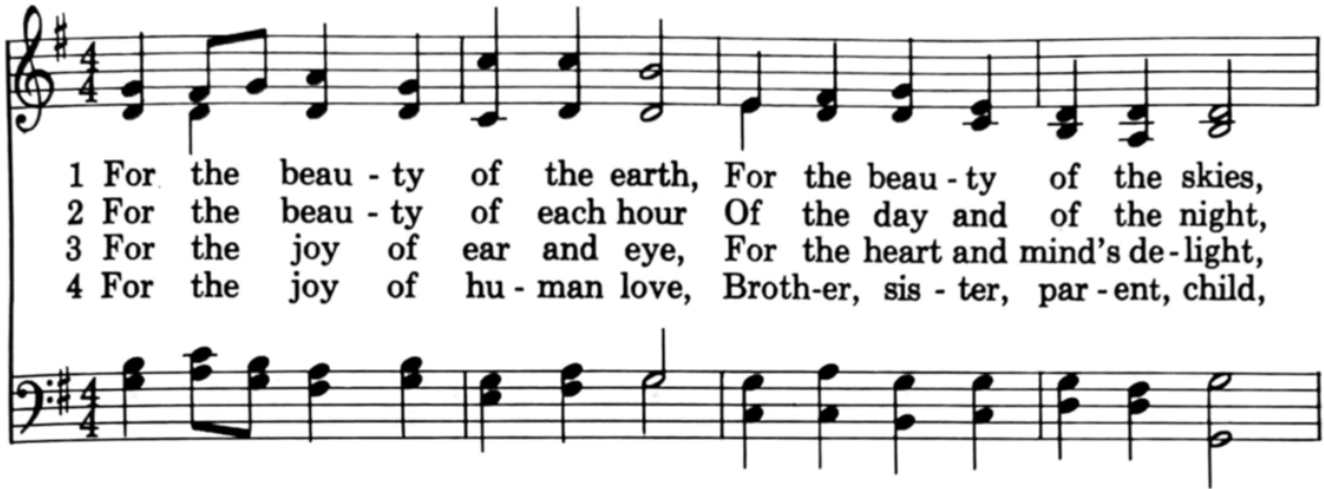
- Pray together, encourage each other, and trust one another;
- Take personal responsibility for fellowship and our community; and
- Celebrate with honored traditions.

For the Beauty of the Earth

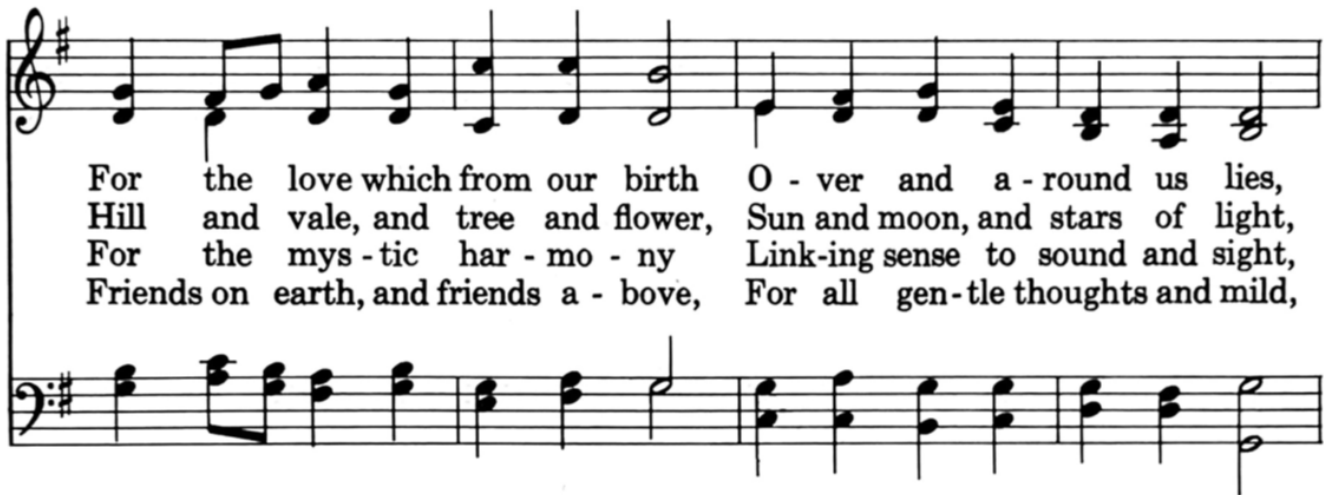
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Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt.

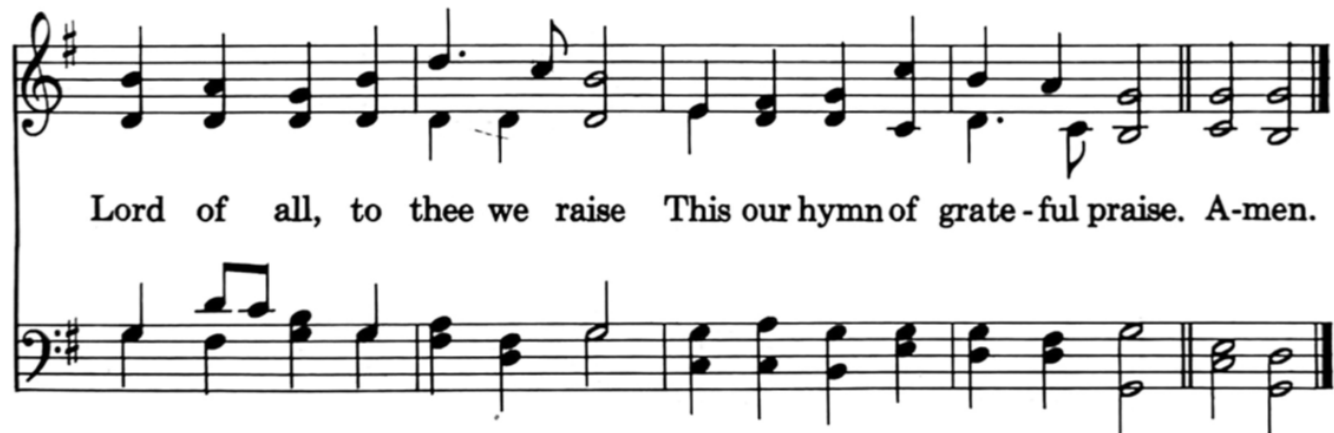
DIX 7.7.7.7.7.
Abridged from a chorale by
Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, For the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the beau - ty of each hour Of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's de-light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, Broth-er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,



For the love which from our birth O - ver and a - round us lies,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light,
For the mys - tic har - mo - ny Link-ing sense to sound and sight,
Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, For all gen - tle thoughts and mild,



Lord of all, to thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise. A-men.

Restless Weaver

1. Rest - less Weav - er, ev - er spin - ning threads of jus - tice
 2. Where earth's frag - ile web is rav - eling help us mend each
 3. When our vio - lent lust for pow - er ends in lives a -
 4. Rest - less Weav - er, still con - ceiv - ing new life—now and

and sha - lom; dream-ing pat - terns of cre - a - tion
 bro - ken strand. Bless our ur - gent, bold en - deav - ors
 bused and torn, from com - pass - ion's stur - dy fab - ric
 yet to be— bind - ing all your vast cre - a - tion

where all crea - tures find a home; gath - ering up life's var - ied
 cleans - ing wa - ter, air, and land. Through the Spir - it's in - spi -
 fash - ion hope and trust re - born. Where in - jus - tice rules as
 in one liv - ing tap - es - try: you have called us to be

fi - bers—ev - ery tex - ture, ev - ery hue: grant us your cre -
 ra - tion—of - fer - ing health where once was pain—strength - en us to
 ty - rant, give us cour - age, God, to dare live our dreams of
 weav - ers. Let your love guide all we do. With your Reign of

a - tive vis - ion. With us weave your world a - new.
 be the stew - ards of your world knit whole a - gain.
 trans - for - ma - tion. Make our lives in - car - nate prayer.
 Peace our pat - tern, we will weave your world a - new.

WORDS: O. I. Cricket Harrison, 1988, rev. 1993
 MUSIC: Attr. B. F. White, 1844; harm. Ronald A. Nelson, 1978

BEACH SPRING
 87.87D

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I, the Lord of Sea and Sky
(Here I Am, Lord)

Unison

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain,
3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,

All who dwell in deep - est sin my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them; they turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.

I who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Words: Daniel L. Schutte 1981, alt.

Music: Daniel L. Schutte 1981, harm. Michael Pope, Daniel L. Schutte and John Weissrock 1983

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HERE I AM, LORD

7 7 7 4 D with refrain

PROFESSION OF FAITH, ORDINATION, COMMISSIONING, INSTALLATION

Refrain

D/F# G Gsus G G/B Am7 G C/E D7 G

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have

G Am G Am/C C Dsus D/F# D7

heard you call-ing in the night. I will

G Gsus G Am/G G C D7 G

go, Lord, if you lead me. I will

G C/G G Am7 C/D D G C/G D.C. G Fine

hold your peo - ple in my heart.