

UNITED CHURCH ON THE GREEN

In the Heart of New Haven, open to all Seekers



An Open and Affirming Congregation of the
United Church of Christ

www.unitednewhaven.org
www.facebook.com/unitednewhaven
[@unitednewhaven](https://www.instagram.com/unitednewhaven)

In a world where Christianity is too often associated with intolerance, exclusion, and hate, the mission of United Church on the Green is to proclaim Christ through faith, hope, and love. We are a community of many races, ethnic backgrounds, religious experiences, ages, sexual orientations, and gender identities. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, you will have a home here at United Church on the Green.

November 16, 2025

10:00AM

Pentecost 23C

We Gather as Church

*Please stand as you are able

PRELUDE

Hymn to the Sun

Paul Halley

WORDS OF WELCOME

Pastor Ray

CALL TO WORSHIP

At God's table of justice, everyone has a place and none are turned away.

Here strangers are welcomed as friends, the poor sit alongside the rich, and the upside-down kin-dom of God is revealed.

At God's table of abundance, a banquet of righteousness and liberation is set for all.

Here the powerless are heard; the outcast are showered with honor, and the inside-out kin-dom of God is revealed.

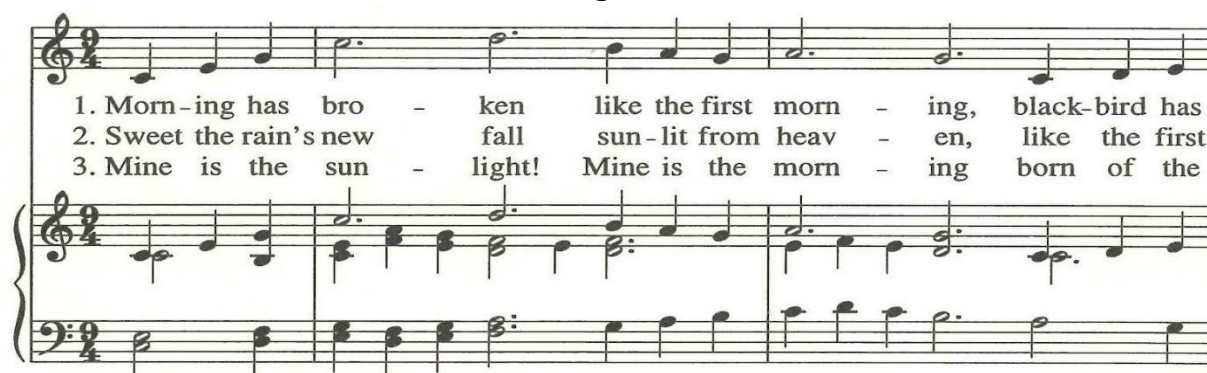
At God's table of life, all peoples know peace and creation flourishes. Here the hopeless are nourished with possibility, the complacent are transformed into advocates for change.

Here in our very midst the kin-dom of God is revealed.

Amen

HYMN #258Morning Has Broken*

BUNESSAN



1. Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing, black-bird has
2. Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en, like the first
3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing born of the



spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing!
dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness
one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion,



Praise for the morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
of the wet gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where his feet pass.
praise ev - ery morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

GATHERING PRAYER (Unison)

Pastor Ray

We give thanks to you, Oh God, for you are good; for your steadfast love endures forever. You have redeemed us from trouble and gathered us in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. When we cry to you in trouble, you bring us out of our distress.

We thank you God for your steadfast love, for your wonderful works to humankind. We lift up your name here in the congregation of the people and praise you in the assembly of the elders. We worship you here, today, together. Amen.

CHILDREN'S GATHERING

All children are invited to come to the front for a brief time of greeting and prayer. Afterward, children are invited to go to the children's room, or children may stay with their parents.

Children's Sermon and Sing-Along

if you promise to be welcoming
then you are welcome here!
if you keep an open heart
an open mind and open ears!
if you know that folks are different
and it's nothing to fear
then I promise you will always be
welcome here!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Abram Guerra

Gracious God, you tell us to love one another—to love others the way we so naturally love ourselves. Yet each of us must admit that we have failed to do so. Jesus taught us to love our neighbors even if they don't look like us, even if they don't think like us, even if they don't love like us, even if they don't pray like us, even if they don't speak like us, even if they don't vote like us. But we have failed to love one another with no exceptions.

Brief period of silence

Forgive us Holy One, and make us again in your image of Love. Blot out our sins, renew our minds, rekindle our hearts, and guide us by Your Holy Spirit into the Love that is your will. Amen.

RESPONSE

There's a Spirit of Love in This Place

MEDEMA



1. There's a spir - it of love in this place, there's a
(2. There's the) pres - ence of peace in this room, there's the



spir - it of love in this place. You can't
pres - ence of peace in this room. In God's



see it, but it's there just as pre-cious as the air. There's a
ten-der-ness is found peace that pass - es hu-man bounds. There's the



spir - it of love in this place. O al - le -
pres - ence of peace in this room.



lu - ia, sing al - le - lu - ia! We bless your ho - ly



name. O al - le - lu - ia, sing al - le - lu - ia! There's a



spir - it of love in this place. 2. There's the place.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Siblings in Christ, God's Spirit did not leave us after that first Pentecost. The Spirit is still with us, empowering us to know mercy and grace, forgiveness and service. In this Spirit, and through Christ, we proclaim the Good News:

All: We are forgiven Alleluia! Amen.

We Listen for God's Word

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 65:17-25

Cher Balkcom

¹⁷For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. ¹⁸But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating, for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy and its people as a delight. ¹⁹I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it or the cry of distress. ²⁰No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days or an old person who does not live out a lifetime, for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. ²¹They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²²They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat, for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. ²³They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord— and their descendants as well. ²⁴Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. ²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall feed together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

***HYMN #505**

Let Justice Flow Like Streams

ST. THOMAS

1. Let jus - tice flow like streams of spark - ling
2. Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers'
3. So may Cod's plumb line, straight, de - fine our

wa - ter, pure, en - a - bling growth, re -
cares we heed, an ev - er - flow - ing
mea - sure true, and jus - tice, right, and

fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.
stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.
peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray, Jr.

ANTHEM

God Has Work for Us to Do

Mark Miller

'Til all the jails are empty
and all the bellies filled;
'til no one hurts or steals or lies,
and no more blood is spilled:

Chorus:

*God has work for us to do,
'til God's will is done,
and all things are made new,
God has work for us to do!*

'Til age and race and gender
no longer separate;
'til pulpit, press, and politics
are free of greed and hate: **Chorus**

In tenement and mansion,
in fact'ry, farm, and mill,
in board room and in billiard hall,
in wards where time stands still,
in classroom, church, and office,
in shops, or on the street,
in ev'ry place where people thrive,
or starve, or hide, or meet.

By sitting at a bedside,
to hold pale, trembling hands,
by speaking for the powerless
against unjust demands.
By praying through our doing,
and singing though we fear,
by trusting that the seed we sow
will bring God's harvest near: **Chorus**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you... **And also with you...** Let us pray...

**We join our voices to pray, rejoice and celebrate the good things of
our life together and those who are celebrating their birthdays,
including Kirke Elsass, Hunter Maursky, Caroline Isabelle + Jean Welty**

**We pray for those who continue to experience the effects of the
recent government shutdown.**

We pray for those who remain food and housing insecure.

We pray for those who weather the effects of lost income.

We pray for our society that has so badly lost its way.

We pray that all will see the full humanity of Your beloved children.

**We pray for ourselves and our kin that the light of God's love will
shine on us all, particularly our queer and trans siblings.**

We pray for immigrants, refugees, and the disappeared in these wicked times.

We pray for our world suffering the ravages of Climate Change, especially those dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa.

We pray for children, teachers, parents, and school staffs that this school year they may together learn to dream of a different world.

We pray that justice and peace might rule with special prayers for those suffering because of famine in our land and across the world.

We pray for those suffering the plague of gun violence.

We pray for those challenged by physical and mental illness and for we who love them.

We pray that wisdom and courage might lead those with plenty, to help make a better world for all.

We pray that Your Church will be place of refuge and hope and that we may ever live in the power of Hope.

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

And so, we sing in prayer with the words you taught us:

Sung Lord's Prayer by Mark Miller

mp

Our God, in hea-ven, ho-ly is your name, your

reign come, your will done, on earth as in hea-ven.

slower

Give us to-day our dai-ly bread, and help us for-give, as we have been for-giv-en.

mf

In the time of tri-al lead us in-to light, for yours is the kin-dom, and the

f *mp*

po-wer, and the glo-ry, for-e-ver. Our God, in

hea-ven, ho-ly is your name, ho-ly is your name.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

We invite you to greet one another with signs of peace

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

How Can I Keep from Singing?

Gwyneth Walker

My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation.
I hear the real though distant song that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife I hear the music ringing.
It sounds an echo in my soul, how can I keep from singing?

What though the tempest loudly roars, I hear the truth, it's living!
What though the darkness round me close, songs in the night it's giving! No storm can
shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging.
Since I believe that love abides, how can I keep from singing?

When tyrants tremble when they hear the bells of freedom ringing.
When friends rejoice both far and near, how can I keep from singing?
In prison cell, in dungeon dark, our thoughts to them are winging.
When friends hold courage in their heart, how can I keep from singing?

***DOXOLOGY**

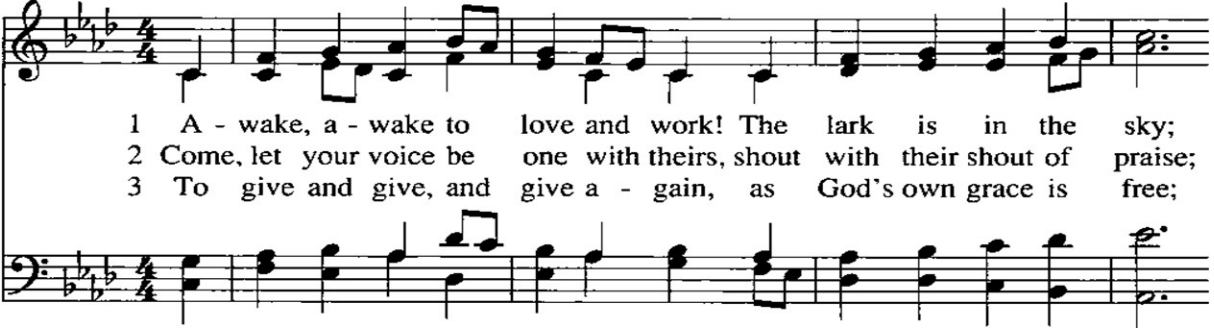
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

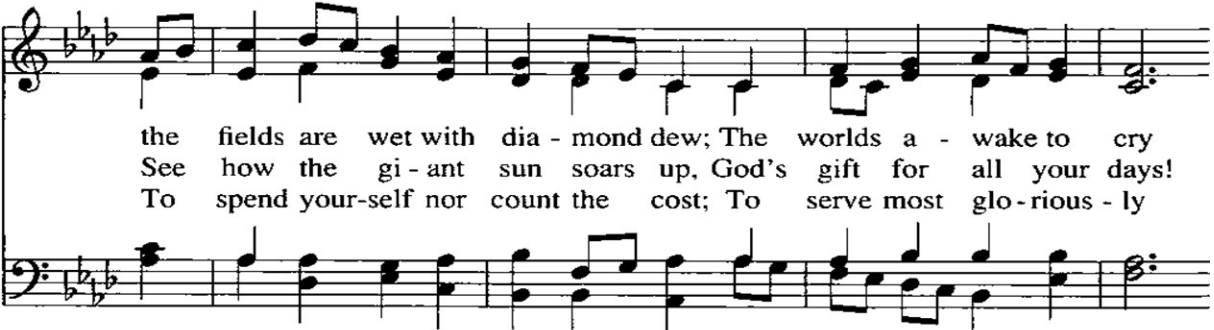
**God, thank you, thank you, thank you – for your grace, for this
community of faith, for the gifts of our lives. Bless these offerings
today that they might be used to further your reign of righteousness
here and now. Work through each of us and through the ministries of
this congregation that we might glorify you in all we do. Amen.**

We Are Sent Out

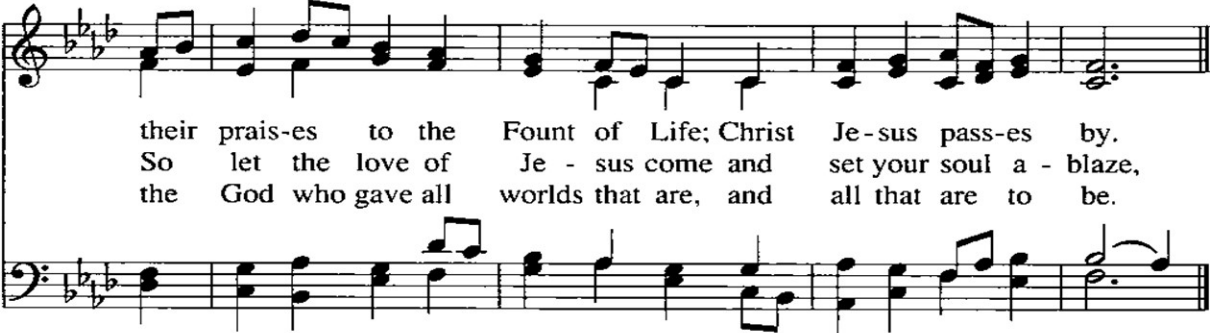
***HYMN NCH #89** *Awake, Awake to Love and Work* MORNING SONG



1 A - wake, a - wake to love and work! The lark is in the sky;
2 Come, let your voice be one with theirs, shout with their shout of praise;
3 To give and give, and give a - gain, as God's own grace is free;



the fields are wet with dia - mond dew; The worlds a - wake to cry
See how the gi - ant sun soars up, God's gift for all your days!
To spend your-self nor count the cost; To serve most glo - rious - ly



their prais-es to the Fount of Life; Christ Je-sus pass-es by.
So let the love of Je - sus come and set your soul a - blaze,
the God who gave all worlds that are, and all that are to be.

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Pastor Ray

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships,
so that we may seek truth boldly and love deep within our hearts.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people,
so that we may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, starvation, and war,
so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world,
so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.

Amen, Ameen, and Ashe!

POSTLUDE

Pianosong

Paul Halley

Our Worship Has Ended. Let Our Service Begin!

Please join us at Coffee Hour after Worship

<https://unitednewhaven.org/this-weeks-worship>

Scan the QR Code to Sign Up for our Weekly Newsletter



THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Senior Pastor	Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray, Jr.
Director of Music	Caesar Storlazzi
UCG Choir:	Cher Balkcom, Judith Carlson, Grecia Hernandez Hontz, Thomas Hernandez Hontz, Tess Klibanoff, Christopher Leimgruber, Julia Blue Raspe, Daniel Rausch, Connor Reese, and Jean Welty
Digital Deacons	Worship & Music Ministry Team
Coffee Hour Coordinator	Dale Richards
Head Sexton	William Henton

THIS WEEK AT UNITED CHURCH

Nov 16th: 10:00AM Sunday Worship - Meeting House and Online

Nov 18th: 12Noon Staff Meeting – Online

Nov 20th: 6:00PM Bible Study – Online

For Our Full Calendar, go to: www.calendarwiz.com/unitednewhaven

CHURCH NOTES

Musical Permissions

CCLI: **11242315**, One License: **A-736676**

CCS WorshipCast: **22251728** All rights reserved.

MEETING HOUSE WIFI INFORMATION

WiFi Network: UCG Meetinghouse

WiFi Password: 2037874195

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP EXPLORATION SESSION

Sunday November 30th - Second Hour

There will be a membership exploration session immediately following service on Sunday November 30th. This will be a time to learn more about membership at UCG and answer any questions you might have. The session will be led by Rev Ray.

At United Church on the Green, we seek to Do Justice, Love Mercy and Walk Humbly with God, following the footsteps of Jesus. We are also a Progressive Protestant Christian Church, a member of the Nationwide United Church of Christ (UCC).

We have a long history.

- Established 1742. Meetinghouse was built in 1815.
- The Amistad Incident? Abolition of slavery? The 1970 Black Panther trials? Divestment in South Africa? United was there.

We believe God is still speaking to the world today... and we're trying to listen.

- Not a "The Bible says it. I believe it. That settles it." kind of church. Questions encouraged. (Actually, they're necessary.)
- "Open and Affirming" of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people since 1989.

We are working with God to build a better future.

- Not interested in "saving souls" or "converting the heathen." God's love is for all.
- Trying to "connect the dots" to grow peace, justice, and compassion in the world.

Staff Contacts

Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr., *senior pastor*

Caesar Storlazzi, *director of music*

Maxim Schmidt, *digital media administrator*

Nicole René Atchison, *church administrator*

Nancy Lupi, *financial secretary*

Jack Russell, *director of operations*

pastor@unitednewhaven.org

music@unitednewhaven.org

media@unitednewhaven.org

office@unitednewhaven.org

nancyalupi@gmail.com

operations@unitednewhaven.org

Rev. Louise B. Higginbotham, *minister emerita*

Rev. Dr. Bonnie Scott, *minister emerita*

United Church on the Green, UCC

Meeting House, *corner of Temple & Elm*

Parish House office, *corner of Temple & Wall*

323 Temple Street, New Haven, CT 06511

203-787-4195

www.unitednewhaven.org

www.facebook.com/unitednewhaven

[@unitednewhaven](https://www.instagram.com/unitednewhaven)

