

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



We Gather as Church

We'd love to keep in touch with you. If you would like us to send you our weekly eNewsletter, update your mailing address, and/or make you a Name Tag, please email the front office at: office@unitednewhaven.org

** Indicates Congregation should stand as able*

PRELUDE

Psalm-Prelude, Op. 32

Herbert Howells
(1892-1983)

WORDS OF WELCOME

Peace be with you... **And also with you...**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Are you awake? Are you alert?

Many: Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.

One: Are you watching the signs?

Are you interpreting what is happening today?

Many: Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.

One: Do you see opportunities for ministry?

Do you see the poor, the homeless, the hungry, the needy?

Many: Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.

One: Come, let us worship and let us work in the reign of God.

Many: Christ has extended the invitation:

let us work together in the reign of God on earth.

*** GATHERING PRAYER (Unison)**

Lord, we are always seeking guidance for the journey you have placed us on. We would like it if everything was spelled out so that we knew what to expect. But that's not the way life works. You remind us, in the story of the 10 bridesmaids, that we should always be ready to seek you and to serve you. Open our hearts today and remind us of your awesome love for us throughout all the generations, for we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

***HYMN #395** *We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness* PASSION CHORALE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

It is never easy to admit how foolish we are, Approaching God. You have chosen us for yourself, and we continue to shelter false gods in our hearts. You promise to be with us in every moment, but we can find little time for you. You send your Word to us, but we are too busy listening to the noise of our culture to pay attention. Have mercy, Eternal One, and forgive us. Speak to us, so we might listen, and in hearing be transformed into your people. Fill us with holiness, so we might give ourselves wholly to others. Enable us to serve you faithfully and completely, even as did our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

SILENT PRAYER

Lord Let Me Be a Sanctuary SANCTUARY

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and
ho - ly, tried and true. With thanks - giv - ing,
I'll be a liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for you.

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the vocal melody with lyrics. The second and third staves show the guitar accompaniment with chord symbols: G, Em7, D, A, A7, D, A, G, A7, D.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: This is our assurance: God forgives us.
This is our hope: God's love is everlasting.
This is our truth: God is with us always.

Many: **We will speak the truth;
we will live the hope; we will share God's mercy.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

We Listen for God's Word

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25:1-13

Jim Edwards

***HYMN #417**

All My Hope on God Is Founded

MICHAEL

REFLECTION

Rev Kevin G Ewing

ANTHEM

My Eyes for Beauty Pine

Herbert Howells
(1892-1983)

My eyes for beauty pine,
My soul for Goddes grace:
No other care nor hope is mine,
To heaven I turn my face.

One splendour thence is shed
From all the stars above:

'Tis named when God's name is said,
'Tis Love, 'tis heavenly Love.

And every gentle heart,
That burns with true desire,
Is lit from eyes that mirror part
Of that celestial fire.

We Respond

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For those celebrating birthdays in the month of March, including
Operations Manager Jack Rusell, Sue Hartt, Sarah Guterman, Darnell
Ray, Jr., Minister Emerita Bonnie Scott, Dee Dee Rogers, Edwin Yupa +
Leslie French

For those who suffer with mental illness

For those who suffer with physical + emotional pain.

The people of Ukraine

To stop the violence against both children and teachers in our schools.

That our elected officials may be granted the foresight, wisdom and
gumption to resolve the difficult issues facing our cities, our schools,
our government no matter the political fallout.

For immigrants and refugees everywhere seeking sanctuary and safe
harbor.

For the families of the children of God worldwide, who have died of
Covid-19, and for all who suffer in the ongoing pandemic.

For the presence and guidance of God through this time of pastoral
transition, that we might navigate the journey with discernment, trust,
and courage.

*For Prayer Requests, please contact the Pastor at pastor@unitednewhaven.org
or 203-787-4195 x104*

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Hear us now as we combine our energy to pray using the words Jesus taught us...

Our Father/Mother/God/Creator, 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.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Peace be with you... *And also with you...*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Like as the Hart

Herbert Howells

Like as the hart desireth the
waterbrooks
so longeth my soul after thee,
O God
My soul is athirst for the living God
yea, even for the living God.
When shall I come to appear

before the presence of God?
My tears have been my meat day and
night,
while they daily say unto me
Where, where is now thy God?

***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**

We can stand at the edge and watch while you seek to bring hope, healing, peace, and joy to everyone in the world. Or we can take that step, of committing our lives as well as our gifts, in working with you in this ministry of grace. Bless our gifts, bless our lives, bless our service, we pray. Amen.

In times like these, the work and word of the church is all the more important. Please help United continue to offer life-giving ministry by giving online through our secure website at www.unitednewhaven.org/donate, or use the QR Code on the back cover of the Bulletin. Thank you for your generosity!

We Are Sent Out

***HYMN #485** *Bless Now, O God, the Journey* BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE *Psalm 128* Emma Lou Diemer (b. 1927)

Our Worship Has Ended. Let Our Service Begin!
After the service join our remote Zoom Coffee Hour at
<https://unitednewhaven.org/this-weeks-worship>

This Week's Music:



Herbert Norman Howells (17 October 1892—23 February 1983) was an English composer, organist, and teacher, most famous for his large output of Anglican church music. His father was a plumber, painter, decorator, and builder, but also the organist at a local Baptist church. At an early age, Howells substituted for his father and at the age of eleven moved on to the local Church of England parish church as choirboy and unofficial deputy organist. Howells was deeply affected by the death of his nine-year-old son, Michael. His son contracted polio during a family holiday and died in London three short days later. Herbert Howells commemorated the death of his son in music until the end of his own life. We are singing Howells' most famous hymn today *All My Hope on God is Founded*, with the tune named after his son. Both anthems in the service today are meditative, one focusing on heavenly love, and the offertory anthem on our yearning for a glimpse of heaven. Both anthems are in a very beautiful singing style with individual chant-like lines intertwining. All four parts coalesce at the moments in the text that relate to love and heaven. Musical word-painting at its finest.



Emma Lou Diemer was born in Kansas City, MO. Her father was an educator and college president; her mother was a church worker and homemaker. Diemer played the piano and composed at a very early age and became organist in her church at age 13. She majored in composition at the Yale School of Music and at the Eastman School of Music. She also studied in Brussels on a Fulbright Scholarship and spent two summers of composition study at the Berkshire Music Center. Diemer has composed several pieces based on the psalms, a kind of “song without words” for the organ. These pieces are in varied styles, by turns meditative, tumultuous, vigorous, and playful. Today's Psalm 128 is in a stately, march-like setting with contrasting sections in a syncopated style.

THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Interim Minister	Rev. Kevin Ewing
Director of Music	Caesar Storlazzi
United Church Choir	
Digital Media Administrator	Lizzy Stant
Digital Deacons	Worship & Music Ministry Team
Coffee Hour Hosts	Ruth Anne Olson June Richards
Head Sexton	William Henton
Sexton	Raymond O'Connor

THIS WEEK AT UNITED CHURCH

Mar 19th: 10:00AM Worship at United Church – Hybrid

Mar 22nd: 1:00PM Staff Meeting – Online

Mar 23rd: 10:00AM Crafts Group – Online
7:00PM Choir Practice

Mar 24th: 4:00PM Bible Study – Online
6:00PM YHHAP Soup Kitchen – Take Out Only

Mar 25th: 6:00PM YHHAP Soup Kitchen – Take Out Only

SCHEDULE A MEETING WITH THE PASTOR

LET'S TALK SOME MORE...

Still plenty of open times for us to chat. If we've already spent time together in conversation, I hope it was enjoyable enough to want to do it again. We can do Zoom or meet in person at the Parish House. Or perhaps meet over coffee or a meal. I added a third option – "Other" – to go along with Zoom or Parish House. Enter the location you'd like to meet and we'll see how to make it happen. I look forward to hearing your stories. <https://calendly.com/kewingct/let-s-talk>

-RevKev

CHURCH NOTES

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MEETING HOUSE WIFI INFORMATION

WiFi Network: UCG Meetinghouse

WiFi Password: 2037874195

Staff Contacts

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Rev. Louise B. Higginbotham, *minister emerita*

Rev. Dr. Bonnie Scott, *minister emerita*

At United Church on the Green, we seek to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God, following in 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.

United Church on the Green, UCC
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