



## Did you know Horace Bushnell...

Horace Bushnell was born in 1802 in Litchfield, Connecticut. He attended Yale College where he earned degrees in Arts, Law, and Theology. In May, 1833 the North Congregational Church in Hartford, Connecticut, ordained him. He served as pastor there for more than 20 years. He married Mary Apthorp in 1833 and the couple had three children.

As a preacher, author, and theologian, Horace stood between the conservative traditions of American Puritans and later liberal views. He held the Bible to be the source and norm for doctrine, but proposed that the lack of historical context for the language of the Bible prevented its readers from truly understanding the work.

Though he affirmed his belief in the deity of Christ, he was critical of traditional presentations of the Trinity. He opposed the substitutionary, penal atonement, but felt that the Bible did not teach any single theory of atonement, that all such theories were more descriptive than definitive.

Conservative preachers criticized him for the threat they perceived he posed to orthodoxy, but his congregation withdrew from the local association to prevent any formal action against him.

## ...was a Congregationalist?

Celebrating 400 Years of American Congregationalism  
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## Call To Worship

L: Laus Deo

**C: Praise be to God**

L: This is the first inclination when we gather for worship

**C: Laus Deo. We gather to praise and thank God for this hour**

L: May our prayers and songs honor the saints of old and the presence of the Spirit among us.

## Invocation (in unison)

Since the landing of our Pilgrim forebears, our worship has changed – it is less somber, with more music, condensed so often in an hour. What we still share with them in worship is our constant need for courage to live as Christ would have us live. Come to us, Lord God. Imbue us with the adventurous spirit not only of the Pilgrims of old, but the pilgrims centuries earlier, both of whom gathered regularly on the Lord's day in simple surroundings to worship You with thanks. Amen

Historical story by: Rev. Garry Fisher

Liturgy by: Rev. Tom Richard