

*Hope*





## UNISON PRAYER WITH THE CONGREGATION

Dear God,  
Through Your Spirit You spoke to prophets,  
and the people prayed and waited for a Messiah to come.  
Through Your Spirit You spoke to Mary and Joseph,  
and they responded and waited for their child to be born.  
Through Your Spirit, speak to each of us  
that we may feel your presence and know Your will  
in our Advent waiting with HOPE this year.  
Amen.

## CANTICLE

*The Road To Bethlehem*  
Mary Williams, soloist

by Lloyd Larson

## INVOCATION

**OPENING HYMN** *Come O Long Expected Jesus* (#122)

Charles Wesley, 1744,  
Word adaptations by Ruth Duck  
Tune: STUTTGART

## TIME OF SHARING

### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

The Lord's Prayer

### PASTORAL BLESSING OF PEACE

ONE: May the Peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

### OFFERTORY PLEDGE

ONE: We love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

ALL: **We pledge our whole selves to God.**

ONE: We love our neighbors as ourselves.

ALL: **We pledge to do justice as Christ's ambassadors of reconciliation.**

ONE: We love one another as Jesus loves us.

ALL: **We pledge to be and become Christ's Beloved Community in our life together.**

ONE: We make disciples by teaching and modeling how to follow Jesus' Way of Love.

ALL: **We pledge to be Jesus' disciples sharing Jesus' Way of Love in the way we live our lives and practice our faith.**

*We will not be passing the offering plates.  
Instead, they are located at both doors for your  
convenience as you enter or exit the Nave.*

## **STEWARDSHIP MOMENT**

### **UNISON PRAYER**

**Creator God, Who loves us deeply and Who gives us life, we pray in the name of Jesus, the Messiah, that we might be good stewards of that which You have given. We pray that we be blessed with the responsibility to respond in faithfulness. We pray that each of us be empowered to do our own part. We pray that we be empowered to rely on one another. We pray that our efforts, together, will be pleasing in Your sight. Amen.**

### **RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

Elspeth Hunter, Braderick Morrison

*Based on Our Core Values*

### **QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES**

#### **QUESTIONS OF THE CONGREGATION**

**PASTOR:** Do you promise to be disciples of Jesus Christ, affirming our core values: Spiritually Alive, Neighborhood Engagement, Loving Church Family, and Making Disciples?

**ALL:** **We promise, with the help of God.**

**PASTOR:** Do you promise to extend your love and care, embracing Brad and Ellie as full members of this local church?

**ALL:** **We promise, with the help of God.**

**PASTOR:** Do you affirm that Brad and Ellie fully belong within our faith community. That we all belong to Jesus Christ, and through Christ we belong to one another?

**ALL:** **With God's help, we affirm that we all belong to Jesus Christ, and that Brad and Ellie fully belong within our faith community.**

### **DECLARATION OF BELONGING**

### **AFFIRMATION OF CHRISTIAN LOVE**

#### ***WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD***

### **SCRIPTURE READING** Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup> In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

## SCRIPTURE READING Luke 21:25-36

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *People Look East*  
Hand Bell Choir

French Carol  
Arranged by Linda R. Lamb

*People, Look East* by Eleanor Farjeon

People, look east. The time is near  
Of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
Trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
One more seed is planted there:  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
That in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,  
Guard the nest that must be filled.  
Even the hour when wings are frozen  
God for fledging time has chosen.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
One more light the bowl shall brim,  
Shining beyond the frosty weather,  
Bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
With the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

## SERMON

### **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**INTERLUDE** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Lloyd Larson  
Tune: Veni Emmanuel. Plainsong  
adapted by Thomas Helmore

### **AFFIRMING OUR FAITH**

*United Church of Christ Statement of Faith in the form of a doxology*

ONE: We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,  
**ALL: God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:**  
ONE: You call the worlds into being,  
**ALL: create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.**  
ONE: You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.  
**ALL: You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.**  
ONE: In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot,  
**ALL: conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.**  
ONE: You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,  
**ALL: creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**  
ONE: You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others,  
**ALL: to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.**

ONE: You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,

**ALL: courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

ONE: Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.

**ALL: Amen.**

### **SHARING OF JOYS/CONCERNS**

*(Joys and prayers requests should be written on the prayer slips as you enter the Nave prior to the start of worship.)*

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

#### **COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

**CLOSING HYMN** *God Loved The World* (#208)

Heiliges Lippen and Herzens Opfer, 1778,

Trans. August Cruss, 1845

ROCKINGHAM, adapt. Edward Miller 1790

### **BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Mark Hayes

*Please remain seated until the usher dismisses you.*

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Advent candle lighting from *Whole People of God* curriculum © Woodlake Publishing, Inc.  
Children's Moment from *Young Children and Worship* by Sonja M. Stewart and Jerome W. Berryman © 1989.

Watch a live stream of our service Sundays at 10:00 a.m. at [www.uccnorwichny.org/sermons](http://www.uccnorwichny.org/sermons).

### Question for Reflection

Even in the midst of trouble and turmoil, God allows us glimpses of the kingdom to come. What signs of promise do you see that bolster your hope in a new heaven and a new earth?

### Household Prayer: Morning

Thank you for this new day to sing your praise  
and watch for signs of your kingdom.  
By your Spirit, let me abound in love for you and your children,  
that in living and loving I may point to your coming reign.  
In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen.

### Household Prayer: Evening

Thank you for the signs of your coming reign,  
and for the power of your saving love.  
Bless all those whom I met today,  
and strengthen their hope in your power and grace.  
Now as I close my eyes,  
I relinquish all anxieties and fears,  
trusting in your providence and mercy. Amen.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ANNOUNCEMENT FROM CHENANGO COUNTY HEALTH

**DEPARTMENT** -Chenango County again find ourselves in a surge of COVID-19 cases. Today's active case report is equal to the highest number of cases we have reported, equaling our active cases from January of this year. The current surge can be attributed to several factors from vaccination rates to reduced safeguards. As we approach the holiday season, we implore everyone in our community to be safe and be smart. Individuals and families must understand their own risk factors and strive to keep each other safe. Please follow good hygiene practices, limit large gatherings, and get vaccinated/ get a booster. Perhaps most important of all, if you don't feel well stay home and get tested. So many of the exposures we continue to see are associated with individuals who continued their regular routine while symptomatic.

### CHENANGO COUNTY COVID-19 NUMBERS

	This week (11/22)	Last week (11/12)
Active Cases	232	194
Quarantines	566	477
Hospitalizations	4	6
Deaths	87	86

**CHENANGO CO. VACCINATION RATE** (people 18+)  
as of 11/22/21 – 71.5% with at least one dose



**CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING TO VOTE ON THE BUDGET - Sunday, December 12th following the worship service.**

**SIGN UP-** If you would like to offer the altar flowers, or be an usher, greeter, or liturgist please sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway, or contact Linda Oehme or the church office. Thank you.

**SHARING OF JOYS/CONCERNS** - Please fill out the prayer request form in the hallway as you enter the Nave prior to the service.

**HELP US FILL A BOX WITH SOCKS DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER.** SOCKS are items that are in great demand by homeless people, and are especially needed in winter. These donations will be distributed through Helping Hands. **Look for the SOCK BOX in church during November.** Thank you for your help!

**LOVE GOD, LOVE NEIGHBOR** - Join us on Mondays to show our support, love and affirmation of those in the LGBTQ+ community by posting a rainbow selfie on your social media account with #rainbowmondays.

**WE SUPPORT MUSIC EDUCATION** – If you need help affording music lessons, consider applying for a Music Scholarship. Applications are available from the church office. For more information, talk with Meena Conant, Music Committee Chair.

**MATT NAKOA CLASSICAL PIANO RECITAL** - Monday Evening Musical Club invites you to hear this local musician on Monday, November 29th at 7:00 p.m. Live in the Nave. The concert is free. Limited to an audience of 50 and all Covid Safety Protocols will be followed.

**IF YOU NEED HELP** with something, please reach out to the church office, a Deacon or Pastor John. We're here to help each other.

**NEXT WEEK - SATURDAY DECEMBER 4 - Decorating the Church for Advent** on December 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome. Masks required.

## **CALENDAR**

### **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28- 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT - HOPE**

#### *Stewardship Sunday*

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School, on Zoom
- 10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave
- 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir, Chapel
- 2:00 p.m. M. Nakoa Rehearsal, Nave
- 3:00 p.m. Cantata Rehearsal, Zoom

### **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29**

- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle on Zoom
- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl, Kitchen
- 1:30 p.m. K. Given Tutoring, kitchen
- 2:00 p.m. E. Fischer Lessons, upstairs
- 3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders' Rm.
- 5:00 p.m. M. Nakoa Rehearsal, Nave
- 7:00 p.m. Matt Nakoa Classical Piano, Nave. Free. See announcements.

### **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30**

#### **Deadline for Newsletter articles**

- 1:00 p.m. Quilting Circle, Kitchen

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1**

- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle on Zoom
- 3:30 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal on Zoom

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2**

- 7:00 p.m. Executive Council, Zoom

### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3**

- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, on Zoom
- 3:30 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4**

- 10:00 a.m. Decorating the Nave for Advent. See announcements.

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5 - 2nd SUNDAY IN ADVENT - PEACE**

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School, on Zoom
- 10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave
- 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir, Chapel
- 3:00 p.m. Cantata Rehearsal, Zoom

*The Chenango Muslim Community meets upstairs daily at 9:30 p.m. and Fridays at 1:30 p.m.*

**TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS IN MINISTRY OF SERVICE:**

Usher:	<b>Pete Williams</b>
Greeter:	<b>Leona Tyler</b>
Interim Pastor:	<b>Rev. John Steitz</b>
Liturgist:	<b>Linda Oehme</b>
Advent Readers:	<b>Elizabeth Barber Breese Gwendolyn Breese</b>
Mission Moment:	<b>Chris Mallozzi</b>
Organist:	<b>Jason Handy</b>
Director of Music Ministries:	<b>Mary Williams</b>
Director of Children's/Youth Ministries:	<b>Linda Oehme</b>
Sunday Sexton:	<b>Shea Breese</b>
Live Stream Committee:	<b>Jen Mallozzi, Chris McSweeney</b>
Hand Bell Choir	<b>Mary Williams, Director Lilit Danielyan, Maxine Gage Elspeth Hunter, Liam Hunter John Kolb, Bob Oehme Linda Oehme, Amy Rogers Ericka Tyler, Leona Tyler Pete Williams</b>

**The flowers are given by Norma Kinney  
in memory of her father, Paul N. Kinney.**

**MINISTERS:** All the People  
**INTERIM PASTOR:** Rev. John Steitz, 215-820-1650 (cell)  
**MODERATOR:** John Kolb  
**CHAIR OF DEACONS:** Mary Williams  
**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES:** Mary Williams  
**DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S/YOUTH MINISTRIES:** Linda Oehme  
**PARISH COORDINATOR:** Cheri Oakley  
**FINANCIAL ASSISTANT:** Jennifer Mallozzi  
**FAMILY COUNSELING MINISTRY:** Joanne Ferguson

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS - By appointment only.**

**CONTACT:**

**Address:** 11 West Main St., Norwich NY 13815

**Telephone:** 607-334-3434

**E-mail:** [office@uccnorwichny.org](mailto:office@uccnorwichny.org)

**Web site:** [www.uccnorwichny.org](http://www.uccnorwichny.org)

**facebook**

**November 28, 2021**

**Covid-19 Safety Protocols**  
(September 2021)

- Face coverings will be required upon entry and exit to the building. (Masks will be available.)
- Social distancing of 6 feet (minimum) will be observed at all times.
- Physical contact with those outside of your household should be avoided.
- Everyone will be required to check in for attendance with the usher upon arrival.
- Please consider coming early to allow time for signing and for a slower entry into the Nave due to social distancing.
- At this time we are not able to accommodate childcare for children of any age. Children will remain in the Sanctuary and are asked to stay seated with their family/household.
- Seating in the Nave will look very different. Our ushers may assist in seating you. Please keep in mind that you may not be able to sit in the pew you are accustomed to and that your seat may change from week to week.
- The bulletins will contain everything you will need to follow along with the service (scripture, hymns, readings etc). They will be located in the pews and will be an indication as to where you can sit upon entry into the Nave.
- Currently, due to State and Conference guidelines, we will be unable to sing along with the hymns, but we do encourage you to hum along with them.
- Passing of the peace will be suspended at this time.
- Hearing assistive devices will be available for those that need them. You will receive the headset in a bag. Please write your name on the bag and store the headset in the same bag for use during future services.
- Offerings will be collected by placing your envelope in an offering plate upon entering or exiting the Nave.
- Once the service is over, we will leave the building in an orderly manner to allow for social distancing. The ushers will dismiss the congregation row by row.
- Coffee Hour and other such gatherings will remain suspended until further notice.
- One person at a time will be allowed in the restrooms (unless family group).
- Hand sanitizing stations are located near the Nave entrance hall and in each pew. Please wash your hands or use sanitizing stations frequently.
- We ask that if you are not feeling well and /or may be exhibiting cold or flu-like symptoms, that you refrain from attending until you feel better.
- Prayer requests can be emailed to the church office by Friday. On Sunday morning, we will utilize the prayer basket for prayer requests.
- Disinfection Plan: our Custodian will disinfect all high touch surfaces, including rest rooms and seating areas, before and/or after weekly services.