

The United Church of Christ
First Congregational
Norwich, New York





**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
Norwich, New York 13815**



An Open and Affirming Church

February 6, 2022

10:00 a.m.

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We have come from different backgrounds on various roads to get here.

ALL: But we are all here seeking an experience of the holy.

ONE: Listen for the promise of God's steadfast love and God's faithfulness.

ALL: We are listening for God's call in our lives.

INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN

Holy Holy Holy (#277)

by Reginald Hebe, 1826

Tune: NICAEA John B. Dykes, 1861

Descant David McK. Williams, 1948

TIME OF SHARING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT (Linda Oehme)

The Lord's Prayer

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

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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.*

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION:

ONE: In Luke's Gospel we read that Jesus, at the table with two of the disciples, took bread and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them, and their eyes were opened, and they recognized the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.

In the Acts of the Apostles we read that as the church was gathered, often in the homes of the believers, Christians devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and community, to the breaking of bread, and to prayers.

ALL: Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, we gather at your table to know you in the breaking of the bread.

COMMUNION PRAYER:

ONE: Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and the gift of life and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for revealing your will for us in the giving of the law and in the preaching of the prophets.

ALL: We thank you especially that in the fullness of time you sent Jesus, born of Mary, to live in our midst, to share in our suffering, and to accept the pain of death at the hands of those whom Jesus loved.

ONE: We rejoice that in a perfect victory over the grave you raised Christ with power to become sovereign in your realm.

ALL: We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to gather your church by which your work may be done in the world and

through which we share the gift of eternal life. With the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy your holy name: Holy, holy, holy, God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.

ONE: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying, "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

ALL: In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This is the cup of the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

ONE: Consecrate, therefore, by your Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine, and bless us that as we receive them at this table, we may offer you our faith and praise, we may be united with Christ and with one another, and we may continue faithful in all things. In the strength Christ gives us, we offer ourselves to you, eternal God, and give thanks that you have called us to serve you. Amen.

BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE

(Please lift up your elements as we break bread and pour wine)

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

(Open and partake of the elements at this time.)

COMMUNION MUSIC

*Let Us Break Bread Together (#330) Tune: LET US BREAK BREAD
Harmonization David Hurd, 1983*

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth Your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING - Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ² Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³ And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory."

⁴ The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

⁶ Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷ The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." ⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

CHOIR ANTHEM

Here I Am, Lord

Dan Schutte, 1981

adapt. By Carlton R. Young, 1988

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Here I am, Lord,

Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have born my people's pain,
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

Refrain

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send.

Refrain

SCRIPTURE READING - 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand,² through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³ For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures,⁴ and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures,⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

SCRIPTURE READING - Luke 5:1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God,² he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets.³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.”⁵ Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.”⁶ When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break.⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink.⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!”⁹ For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken;¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.”¹¹ When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

INCLUSIVE CHURCH PRAYER

Lord of the deep waters,
you call us from the safety of the shore to an adventure of the spirit:
open wide our arms to embrace the world you dare to serve;
through Jesus Christ, who gives life in abundance.
Amen.

SERMON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INTERLUDE

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

O How I Love Jesus (#52)

by Frederick Whitfield
Tune: O HOW I LOVE JESUS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Voluntary in C

By John Zundel
Arranged by Michael Ryan

Please remain seated until the usher dismisses you.

Bulletin Notes:

The *Inclusive Church Prayer* comes from *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* by Steven Shakespeare, Church Publishing: New York, 2009.



Questions for Reflection

Sometimes we are afraid to tell others about our experiences of the holy and about God's call in our lives, because we don't want to annoy or oppress others. There is a difference between witnessing through indoctrination and witnessing through acts of compassion. How do you witness to others about your faith?

The disciples had already fished all night without catching anything; what quality or characteristic in Peter might have helped him "give it another try" when Jesus invited him to cast his net again? What quality or characteristic within you helps you to keep trying, to start again, after disappointment or even failure?

Household Prayer: Morning

God, I give you thanks this morning
as I watch the beauty of the newborn light,
listen to the first stirrings of a new day in nature,
and ponder the miracle of my own breathing
and your presence in it all.

Holy, Holy, Holy!

Increase my strength of soul today.

And whenever I see a need,
help me to respond, "Send me!" Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Thank you, God, for the gift of this day.

Like the fisher folk who became disciples,
I have put in a day of work.

As evening comes, it is time to rest.

If, as I review my day, I am tempted to say,

"I am not worthy of your presence, God,"

reassure me with the calming words of Jesus,

"Do not be afraid, come be with me." Amen.

CALENDAR

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6

9:00 a.m. Sunday School, on Zoom
10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion, Nave
11:30 a.m. Bell Choir

MONDAY FEBRUARY 7

9:00 a.m. AARP Tax Prep, Founders' Rm.
10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle on Zoom
1:30 p.m. K. Given Tutoring, kitchen
2:00 p.m. E. Fischer Lessons, upstairs
3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Mayflower Rm.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

1:00 p.m. Quilting Circle, Kitchen
7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting, Zoom

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

9:00 a.m. AARP Tax Prep, Founders' Rm.
10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle on Zoom
3:30 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs
7:00 p.m. Zoom Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10

1:30 p.m. Piecemakers Meeting, Founders' Rm.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11

9:00 a.m. AARP Tax Prep, Founders' Rm.
10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, on Zoom
3:30 p.m. J. Handy, Lessons

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

9:00 A.M. Piecemakers Sewing Day, Founders' Rm.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

9:00 a.m. Sunday School, on Zoom
10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave
11:30 a.m. Bell Choir

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MASKS ARE REQUIRED THROUGHOUT THE WORSHIP SERVICES.
See back cover for detailed Covid Safety Procedures.

PLEASE DO NOT TAKE UNNECESSARY RISKS TO COME TO CHURCH if weather or temperature conditions are poor. Our staff will make every effort to hold a service and share it via the LiveStream (www.uccnorwichny.org/live-stream-2). If church is canceled, we will announce it by email, on Facebook and on the church office voicemail (334-3434).

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

SIGN UP FOR GREETER, USHER, LITURGIST OR FLOWERS. There are many open spots in the upcoming weeks. Look for the updated sign-up sheets on the bulletin board in the hallway. Or contact Linda Oehme or the church office. Thank you.

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.

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.

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.

Watch a live stream of our service Sundays at 10:00 a.m. at
www.uccnorwichny.org/live-stream-2

Past worship services can be viewed at
www.uccnorwichny.org/sermons

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS IN MINISTRY OF SERVICE:

Interim Pastor: **Rev. John Steitz**
Director of Music Ministries: **Mary Williams**
Organist: **Jason Handy**
Director of Children's/Youth Ministries: **Linda Oehme**
Sunday Sexton: **Shea Breese**
Live Stream: **Jennifer Mallozzi, Chris McSweeney**
Usher: to be announced
Greeter: to be announced
Liturgist: **Linda Oehme**

NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS - 2/13

Usher: available
Greeter: available
Liturgist: Mary Williams
Flowers: available

*The flowers are given in honor of Betty Yeahl.
Happy 94th Birthday with Love:
Linda, Bob, Jen and Chris, and Jess, Justin and Melodie*

Cover drawing by Judy Smith.

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
Web site: www.uccnorwichny.org

facebook

Covid-19 Safety Protocols (September 2021)

- Face coverings will be required upon entry and exit to the building. (Masks will be available.) **As of 12/5/21** - masks are required throughout the service, unless speaking from a microphone, singing a solo during worship, or receiving communion.
- 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.