





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



An Open and Affirming Church

March 13, 2022

10:00 a.m.

Reign of Christ Sunday

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Simple Gifts*

arr. James C. Kasen
(Shaker Hymn)

WELCOME

(Please sign the attendance pad found in the pew.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Holy is the Creator of the heavens and the earth

ALL: Of sunlight and starlight, forest and ocean.

ONE: Holy is the composer of birdsong and thunderstorm.

ALL: Let all creation sing praise!

ONE: Holy is the One who was born in a stable

ALL: Who knelt down in the dust to wash feet.

ONE: Holy is the One whose crown was twisted thorns.

ALL: Let all creation sing praise!

ONE: Holy is the Spirit who confounds the powerful,

ALL: Who lifts up the silenced and forgotten.

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

Cover: Jesus of the People. Janet McKenzie. 1999. janetmckenzie.com

Call to Worship: Rev. Cara Heafey

Prayer of Invocation: Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell

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ONE: Holy is the love that breaks the rules of empire.

ALL: Let all creation sing praise!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

***OPENING HYMN** *Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing* #303
(Tune: DARWALL'S 148TH)

TIME OF SHARING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

PASTORAL BLESSING OF PEACE

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

ALL: And also with you.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

DISCIPLESHIP 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.

Offering plates are located at both Nave doors for your convenience.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 46

Pew Bible OT p. 571

Luke 23:33-43

Pew Bible NT p. 90

ANTHEM *Epiphany Carol*

based on the tune DIX

Handbell Choir

arranged by Linda R.Lamb

SERMON *Ready for the Ball Drop*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INTERLUDE

I Am the Light of the World

Jim Strathdee, 1969

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

***CLOSING HYMN** *O How I Love Jesus* #52
(Tune: O HOW I LOVE JESUS C.M.)

BENEDICTION

RESPONSE *O How I Love Jesus* #52 (refrain)
(Tune: O HOW I LOVE JESUS C.M.)

POSTLUDE

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come Lloyd Larson
Tune: ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR
by George J. Elvey

*The flowers are given by the Johnson Family
in memory of Janet's father, John Wassenaar.*

CALENDAR

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

- 9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School in person and Zoom
- 9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Nave
- 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir, upstairs
- 12:45 p.m. Livestream meeting, Mayflower Room
- 2:00 p.m. Filling Thanksgiving Boxes, Founders' Room
- 6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Forum, Zoom

MONDAY NOVEMBER 21

- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom
- 1:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Box Pick-Up
- 3:00 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

- 9:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Box Pick-Up

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24 - Thanksgiving Day

Church Office Closed

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Staff Holiday

- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27- First Sunday of Advent

- 9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School in person and Zoom
- 9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Nave
- 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir, upstairs
- 3:00 p.m. Cantata Rehearsal, Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Forum, Zoom

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NURSERY CARE is available for children up to the age of five beginning at 9:00 a.m. The Nursery is located up the stairs at the front of the building. Children are welcome in the entire the service or can leave after the Children's Moment – whatever works best for your family.

BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK - 11/24 Alexander Gage

PASTOR JASON will be away for Thanksgiving from Wednesday to Saturday this coming week, but he **WILL be reachable** by phone and email during that time.

CHANGE TO CHURCH OFFICE OPEN HOURS

Monday – Tuesday – Thursday

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (closed 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.)

OUR CHURCH IS READING THE FIRST CHRISTMAS, by noted Jesus scholars Marcus Bork and John Dominic Crossan this Advent season. It is wonderful that so many of us are going to read a book together! The Discussion Group meeting schedule is listed below. Even if you cannot or prefer not to participate in the discussion groups, you are absolutely still invited to join in reading the book.

Part I: Tuesday, 11/29 at 2:00 p.m. or Thursday, 12/1 at 7:00 p.m.

Part II: Tuesday, 12/6 at 2:00 p.m. or Thursday, 12/8 at 7:00 p.m.

Part III: Tuesday, 12/13 at 2:00 p.m. or Thursday, 12/15 at 7:00 p.m.

Copies of the book are available in the church office – just be sure to write your name on the list so we can keep track.

THE DEACONS INVITE YOU to help decorate the church for the Advent season on **Saturday, December 3 at 10:00 a.m.** All are welcome!

DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER is Monday, November 28th. Please send your items and articles to Cheri at office@uccnorwichny.org

HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER FOR THE PLACE - Order your wreaths and poinsettias and support the good work of The Place. **Fraser Fir Wreaths - 10" ring (25" tip to tip) - \$35.00 Red Poinsettias - in a 6" pot - \$15.00** Pick up dates are Nov. 25 through Dec. 16 at Pires Flower Basket, 216 N Broad St., Norwich. **You can purchase tickets from Norma Kinney** at church or call her at 607-334-8911.

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS IN MINISTRY OF SERVICE:

Pastor and Teacher: **Rev. Jason Boyd**

Liturgist: **Ericka Tyler**

Director of Music Ministries: **Mary Williams**

Organist: **Jason Handy**

Live Stream: **Jennifer Mallozzi, Chris McSweeney**

Sunday Sexton: **Elsbeth Hunter**

Nursery: **Fiora Breese**

Handbell Choir: **Megan Carpenter, Maxine Gage, Elspeth Hunter,**

Janet Johnson, Michael Moren, Jackie Powell, Amy Rogers,

Dan Thompson, Ericka Tyler, Leona Tyler, Pete Williams.

Mary Williams-Director

NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS - 11/27

Usher:

Liturgist: Ericka Tyler

Flowers: Norma Kinney

Coffee Hour:

November 20, 2022

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

11 West Main St., Norwich NY 13815

607-334-3434 - office@uccnorwichny.org - www.uccnorwichny.org

MINISTERS: All the People

[facebook](#)

PASTOR AND TEACHER: Rev. Jason Boyd

MODERATOR: John Kolb

CHAIR OF DEACONS: Mary Williams

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES: Mary Williams

INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES: Jessica Posner

PARISH COORDINATOR: Cheri Oakley

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT: Jennifer Mallozzi

CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

UCC Norwich Reopening Guidelines

Revised 03/31/22

COVID Protocols that have been modified:

- Face coverings in the church building will be optional
- Social distancing of 6 feet is still recommended.
- Childcare will be available again beginning in September 2022
- Parishioners may choose their own seating in the Nave. Distancing between non-family groups is still recommended.
- Hymnals, Pew Bibles will be in the pew racks and may be used.
- Congregational singing is now permitted.
- Prayer requests may be spoken during the worship service or may be submitted in the prayer basket. (Usher will bring microphone around to congregation. Microphone cover will be supplied)
- Coffee Hour will resume April 24, 2022 and will be hosted and coordinated by the Deacons.
- Passing of the peace will continue to be suspended at this time.
- Offerings will be collected by placing your envelope in a basket upon entering or exiting the Nave.
- Communion will be offered in the pews using individually portioned elements.
- 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.
- 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.
- Disinfection Plan: our Custodian will disinfect all high touch surfaces, including rest rooms and seating areas, before and/or after weekly services.