



**United Church of Christ  
Norwich, New York**



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



**An Open and Affirming Church**

**December 4, 2022** **10:00 a.m.**  
**Second Sunday of Advent - PEACE**

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***PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD***

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**PRELUDE** *Lo How A Rose*

Mark Hayes

**WELCOME**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***GATHERING***

**CALL TO WORSHIP - LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**  
**Second Sunday of Advent – PEACE**

**CANTICLE** *Prepare!*

from “*Seekers of the Light*”

Music by Lloyd Larson

Words from Isaiah 40:3-4 and Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722)

Translated by Sarah B. Findlander (1823-1907)

Prepare, prepare for the coming of the Lord;  
in the desert, prepare a road.  
Ev'ry valley shall be lifted high,  
each mountain and hill made low.

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

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\*Please stand if you are able.

**Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.**

Candle lighting liturgy by Rev. Dr. Derek Weber, United Methodist Church

Candle lighting prayer by Rev. Michael N. Jagessar, United Reformed Church

Prayer of Invocation by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell

Communion liturgy by Rev. Andrew O'Neil

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## **UNISON PRAYER**

**God-of-peace-and-possibility, kindle in the hearts of all compassion and love so that goodness, just deeds, the common good, and trust may flourish. Bless and gift all with hope for a future of peace built on justice for all. In the name of the Child, the peaceful one. Amen.**

## **CANTICLE *Prepare!***

from "*Seekers of the Light*"

Music by Lloyd Larson

Words from Isaiah 40:3-4 and Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722)

Translated by Sarah B. Findlander (1823-1907)

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**\*OPENING HYMN** *With Joy Draw Water* #109 (v. 1-4)  
(Tune: ST COLUMBIA)

## ***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 (Pastor)**

## **DISCIPLESHIP PLEDGE (An Offertory Prayer)**

**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.*

## **THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

### **\*COMMUNION HYMN**

*Jesus, the Joy of Loving Hearts*  
(Tune: HESPERUS L.M.)

#329 (v. 1, 3)

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

ONE: In the rich dark of winter, God makes an astounding promise: "I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up."

**ALL: In the wilderness, a voice cries out, longing for the Refiner's fire, repair, and renewal, the promised birth and rebirth of hope.**

ONE: Called to bear the weight and fruit of promise, Mary sings ancient trust—the song of generations — that God comes to fill the hungry and lift the humble. She sings that love and truth will meet, that justice and peace will kiss.

**ALL: In the midst of uncertainty, Jesus assures his disciples: Just as the tree blooms, so the signs are clear that the longed-for day is near. In the deep of our own winter, we look for them: bud of hope, branch of peace, sprig of joy, blossom of love.**

ONE: While around us the snares of fear and conflict lie in wait of infant hope, you, O Wisdom, O Endless Love, O Radiant Dawn, are there, keeping vigil with us, in this season of expectation.

**ALL: We gather at this table, praying that crooked ways be made straight, that valley's peace be lifted up and mountain's might brought low so that all God's people might rejoice together.**

ONE: We give thanks for the mystery and wonder revealed that first night, as humble people led by hope gathered in a quiet stable and were witness to your promise reborn.

**ALL: We give thanks for the blessing and love Jesus shared with all whom He met, in food and story.**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

### UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

At this table, Christ is the host, welcoming all who hunger. At our tables, may Christ be our guest this day and always, that we might welcome hope, peace, joy, and love into our lives, and become hosts to God's presence and people. God of Love, guide us to the stables of our world, where the lonely and longing gather. Lead us to the mangers of our time, where hope and renewal are born again. Make us heralds of your love and joy. Amen.

### \*COMMUNION HYMN

*Jesus, the Joy of Loving Hearts*  
(Tune: HESPERUS L.M.)

#329 (v. 5)

### WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 11:1-10

Pew Bible OT p. 710

Romans 15:4-13

Pew Bible NT p. 170

#### SPECIAL MUSIC *Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old*

Joy F. Patterson, 1981, rev. 1993

Tune: JUDAS AND MARY

by Sydney Carter, 1964

Duet: Michael Moren and Mary Williams

Destinie Smith, guitar

#### SERMON *Captain Miles*

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

#### INTERLUDE *Longing for Messiah*

Mark Hayes

#### AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

*United Church of Christ Statement of Faith*

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** *Now Is the Time Approaching* #609 (v. 1, 2)  
(Tune: WEBB)

## **BENEDICTION**

**RESPONSE** *Now Is the Time Approaching* #609 (v. 3)  
(Tune: WEBB)

**POSTLUDE** *Praise!* Gilbert M. Martin

## *Poinsettias*

In memory of **Gary N. and Elizabeth R. Gray Sr.,  
and William R. and Doris G. Noel**  
from Gary and Vicki Gray

In memory of  
**John Wassenaar, Bill Johnson and Catherine Johnson**  
from Janet and Jeff Johnson

In memory of **Linda Oehme and Marsha Posner**  
from Jessica and Justin Posner.

In memory of **Ruth Tucker** from Rose Laughlin.

In memory of **Miriam H. Weiseman**

### **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.

**CALL TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING TO VOTE ON THE 2023 BUDGET - NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11** in the Founders' Room, following the worship service. Members of the church are encouraged to attend.

**REMINDER** to bring in or mail your pledge card if you plan to pledge for 2023. There are extra pledge cards in the church office.

**BIRTHDAY - 12/10** Bonnie Carpenter

***“THE FIRST CHRISTMAS”***

**BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS FOR PART II THIS WEEK ON ZOOM**

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

If you want to participate in the Discussion Groups and you have not received the Zoom links, please contact Cheri in the church office. There are still a few books available. You are welcome to read the book, whether or not want to be a part of the discussion groups.

**MEMORIAL TREE LIGHTING SERVICE** - Join Hospice of Chenango to honor the lives of loved ones that have passed. December 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hospice Office, 33-39 Court St., Norwich. Memorial ornaments are available for purchase. Call (607)334-3556 for more information.

**THE MID-YORK CONCERT BAND** will present their annual holiday concert on Sunday, December 11 at 2:00 p.m. at the Norwich High School. Free will offering. All are welcome.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**December 18 10:00 a.m.**

Music Sunday featuring the Choir and Handbell Choir

**December 18 4:00 p.m.**

Performance of the cantata, “Seekers of the Light”

**December 24 4:45 p.m.**

Candlelight service, Communion and lots of special music

**December 25**

No worship service





## **CALENDAR**

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

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 - Second Sunday of Advent**

9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School  
9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Nave  
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour, Founders' Room  
11:30 a.m. Bell Choir, upstairs  
3:00 p.m. Cantata Rehearsal, Zoom  
6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Forum, Zoom

### **MONDAY DECEMBER 5**

10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom  
10:00 a.m. Knitting Group, kitchen  
3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders' Room  
3:00 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs  
7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting, Zoom

### **TUESDAY DECEMBER 6**

1:00 p.m. Piecemakers Quilt Circle, Kitchen  
2:00 pm. Book Discussion Group on Zoom  
7:00 p.m. Executive Council, Zoom

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7**

9:00 a.m. Home Bureau, Founders' Rm., Kitchen  
10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom  
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Nave

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8**

1:00 p.m. Piecemakers Christmas Lunch, Founders' Room  
7:00 p.m. Book Discussion Group on Zoom  
7:00 p.m. Hospice Memorial Tree Lighting - Ssee  
announcements for details.

### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9**

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

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 - Third Sunday of Advent**

9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School

9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs

10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Nave

Vote on the 2023 Budget following the service.

11:30 a.m. Bell Choir, upstairs

2:00 p.m. Mid York Concert Band at NHS. See announcements for details.

3:00 p.m. Cantata Rehearsal, Zoom

6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Forum, Zoom

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

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

Liturgist: **Miranda Hunter**

Candle Lighting: **John Kolb, Lilit Danielyan, Willie Kolb**

Director of Music Ministries: **Mary Williams**

Organist: **Jason Handy**

Soloists: **Mary Williams, Michael Moren**

Instrumentalist: **Destinie Smith**

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

Sunday Sexton: **Elsbeth Hunter**

Nursery: **Fiora Breese**

Usher: **Norma Kinney**

Coffee Hour: **Miranda Hunter**

**NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS - 12/11**

Usher: Pat and Tom Whitmore

Liturgist: Ericka Tyler

Coffee Hour: available

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

Past worship services can be viewed at  
[www.uccnorwichny.org/sermons](http://www.uccnorwichny.org/sermons)



**December 4, 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.