



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



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



An Open and Affirming Church

December 11, 2022

10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent - LOVE

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

Of The Father's Love Begotten
(Tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM)

by Mark Hayes

WELCOME

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP - LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES
Third Sunday of Advent – LOVE

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.

*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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LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

UNISON PRAYER

God-who-lights-up-life give us joyful, generous, and courageous hearts. As we lean on your love may your joy well up in us so that our joy may overflow and flourish, witnessing to a life of constant gratitude, full of grace, cathartic hilarity, and goodness. Amen.

CANTICLE *Prepare!* from “*Seekers of the Light*” Lloyd Larson

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*OPENING HYMN

My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise
(Tune: MARIAS LOVSÄNG)

#106

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.

RECEPTION OF MEMBER

Elinor Beebe

INVITATION

CONGREGATIONAL AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

ONE: Let us affirm together our faith as we receive Elinor Beebe into membership in this church.

ALL: We believe in God who has created and is creating.

ONE: God has come to us in Jesus Christ to reconcile and make us new. God works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.

ALL: We trust God. God calls us to be the church.

QUESTIONS

WELCOME AND RECEPTION

ONE: Let us, the members of the United Church of Christ, First Congregational, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

ALL: **We welcome you, Elinor, with joy into the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus, the Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

UNISON PRAYER

O God, we praise you for calling us to faith and for gathering us into the church, the body of Christ. We thank you for your people gathered in this local church and rejoice that Elinor has joined our community of faith. Together may we live in the Spirit, building one another up in love, sharing in the life and worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

HYMN *Called as Partners in Christ's Service* # 495 (v. 1)
(Tune: BEECHER)

GREETING IN CHRISTIAN LOVE

PASTORAL BLESSING OF PEACE

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

ALL: And also with you.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

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.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 35:1-10

Pew Bible OT p. 735

Luke 1: 39-55

Pew Bible NT p. 58

SPECIAL MUSIC *Savior of the Nations, Come*

Handbell Choir

arranged by Linda R. Lamb

based on the tune Enchiridia, 1524

SERMON *Lifting the Lowly with Love*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INTERLUDE

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**

My Soul Gives Glory to My God
(MORNING SONG)

#119 (v.1-4)

BENEDICTION

RESPONSE

My Soul Gives Glory to My God
(MORNING SONG)

#119 (v.5)

POSTLUDE

Fanfare Postlude on "Stuttgart"

Douglas E. Wagner
Tune: Stuttgart



Poinsettias

In memory of **Stacy Gage, Warren and Helene Granz**
and **Amy Gage**
from Maxine, Sam and Alex Gage.

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 all our **loved ones**
from Allan and Elissa Sawyer

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

In memory of their parents, **Carroll and Shirley Edwards**
from Francis, Mark, Janet and Arlene

In memory of **Miriam H. Weiseman**

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

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 - TODAY 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.

BIRTHDAYS

12/11 Judy Smith
12/12 Jamie Maholchic
12/14 Elizabeth Bronson
12/16 Vicki Gray, J. R. Hamilton

THE CHRISTMAS CANTATA - Seekers of the Light - will be performed next Sunday, December 18 at 4:00 p.m. in the Nave. Free and open to the public. Livestream available at www.uccnorwichny.org/live-stream-2.

"THE FIRST CHRISTMAS"

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS FOR PART III THIS WEEK ON ZOOM

Tuesday, 12/12 at 2:00 p.m. or

Thursday, 12/15 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.

THE MITTEN TREE is up in the Founders' Room. Bring in new or handmade mittens, hats, gloves or scarves to decorate it. In January we will donate the items to the Perry Browne School in Norwich.

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 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

MONDAY DECEMBER 12

Church Office Closed

10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom

3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders' Room

3:00 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs

3:30 p.m. E. Fischer Lessons, Nave

6:00 p.m. Garden Club, Founders' Rm.

7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting, Zoom

TUESDAY DECEMBER 13

1:00 p.m. Piecemakers Quilt Circle, Kitchen

2:00 pm. Book Discussion Group on Zoom

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Nave

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

7:00 p.m. Book Discussion Group on Zoom

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom

3:00 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs

6:00 p.m. Teen Cookie Exchange and Gift Making at The Place.
Call 607-336-9696 for details.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

3:00 p.m. Cantata Dress Rehearsal

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs

10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Nave - Music Sunday

4:00 p.m. Performance of *Seekers of the Light*, Nave

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

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:

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

Liturgist: **Ericka Tyler**

Moderator: **John Kolb**

Candle Lighting: **Elizabeth Barber-Breese Family**

Director of Music Ministries: **Mary Williams**

Organist: **Jason Handy**

Bell Ringers: **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**

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

Sunday Sexton: **Elspeth Hunter**

Nursery: **Fiora Breese**

Usher: **Pat and Tom Whitmore**

Coffee Hour: **Jane Prime**

NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS - 12/18

Usher:

Liturgist: **Miranda Hunter**

Coffee Hour:



December 11, 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.