



Baptism of Jesus, by Liz Valente
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**United Church of Christ
Norwich, New York**



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



An Open and Affirming Church

January 8, 2023

10:00 a.m

**The Baptism of Christ
Communion, Reaffirmation of Baptism**

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* J. G. Walther

WELCOME

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 29)

ONE: Come, all who are gathered to worship God:

ALL: Give our God glory and strength!

ONE: Let us sing to God the glory of God's name

ALL: Worship God in holy splendor!

ONE: The voice of our God is over the waters.

ALL: The God of glory thunders over mighty waters.

ONE: Let us worship God.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

***OPENING HYMN** *Crashing Waters At Creation*
(Tune: STUTTGART)

Insert

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

Liturgy, Call to Worship and Invocation Dr. Renee C. Jackson
Communion from Southminster Church

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TIME OF SHARING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

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.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

ONE: Arise, shine; for your light has come! The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

ALL: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

ONE: Nations will come to His light, and rulers will seek his radiance.

ALL: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

ONE: He will judge the people with righteousness and defend the cause of the poor.

ALL: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

ONE: The mystery of the ages is revealed; the eternal love of God is known to all.

ALL: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

ONE: Let us come to this table to which He has invited all of us, to give Him honor, glory, and praise.

ALL: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

ONE: Let us offer him all the treasures of our hearts and our lives.

ALL: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

SHARED WORDS OF INSTITUTION

ONE: Come to the table where Christ meets you.

ALL: Eat, rejoice, and be glad!

ONE: Come to the table and join in telling this sacred story.

ALL: Eat, rejoice, and be glad!

ONE: We give you thanks that Jesus, on the night before he died, took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

ALL: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

ONE: In the same way Jesus took the cup, saying:

ALL: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

ONE: Come to the table where Christ meets you.

ALL: Eat, rejoice, and be glad!

HYMN *Let Us Break Bread Together*
(Tune: LET US BREAK BREAD)

#330 (v. 1)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

ONE: God of endless light, you sent a star — rising from darkness, guiding seekers and sages, overwhelming us with joy. You created all that is, making a universe out of chaos. Throughout the ages you called your people to love and serve you, and to be your light among all Your creation.

ALL: We praise you that in the fullness of time, you revealed your love by sending Jesus to be the Light of the world, to heal our brokenness, and to set before us the ways of justice and peace.

ONE: Baptized by John in the Jordan, Jesus poured out his mercy for all. Turning water into wine at a wedding, he transformed sorrow into joy.

ALL: In his death on the cross, he overcame death. Rising from the tomb, he raised us to eternal life, and made with us a new covenant.

ONE: Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this cup and joyfully celebrate His presence among us.

ALL: With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you to be living vessels of your work on Earth, dedicated to your service.

ONE: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, that we may be one with all who share this feast, united in ministry in every place.

ALL: Illumine our hearts, O God, with the radiance of Christ's presence, that our lives may show forth His love in this weary world. Send us to befriend the lost, to serve the poor, to reconcile our enemies, and to love our neighbors.

ONE: Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are Yours, almighty God, now and forever, as we pray the prayer Jesus taught his disciples:

ALL: 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.

HYMN *Let Us Break Bread Together*
(Tune: LET US BREAK BREAD)

#330 (v. 2)

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of wonder, in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near. Nourish and strengthen those who have received this Holy Communion, that all may rejoice at His birth and in His presence with all your people. As you have come among us now, send us out in joy, hastening to share the good news of your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever. Amen.

HYMN *Let Us Break Bread Together*
(Tune: LET US BREAK BREAD)

#330 (v. 3)

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 29 (read responsively)

RIGHT: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

LEFT: Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.

RIGHT: The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.

LEFT: The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

RIGHT: The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

LEFT: He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

RIGHT: The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

LEFT: The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

RIGHT: The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, 'Glory!'

LEFT: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

RIGHT: May the Lord give strength to his people!

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 3:13-17

Pew Bible NT p. 3

CHOIR ANTHEM *"The Journey"*

from the cantata "The Road to Bethlehem" by Lloyd Larson

SERMON *Crashing Waters, Blessing Waters*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INTERLUDE

Von Himmel hoch da komm ich her Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau

LITANY FOR BAPTISM OF CHRIST SUNDAY

(Psalm 29, Matthew 3: 13-17)

ONE: Jesus came to John and asked to be baptized along with everyone else. John objected, but Jesus prevailed, and went down into the water, immersing himself in the waters of our lives and opening his life to the voice of God.

ALL: The voice of our GOD is powerful, full of majesty:

ONE: Give us ears, O God, to hear the cry of the waters, the waters that we have polluted and have not cared for. Give us ears to hear the voices of those who cry out for pure water, water that replenishes the body and refreshes the soul.

ALL: The voice of our GOD breaks the cedars of Lebanon:

ONE: Awaken our ears, Divine Sovereign, to hear your voice as you speak to those who are the powerful among us, those who sit over nations, those who sit over peoples in judgment. Let them hearken, O God, for you are the One who judges over all.

ALL: The voice of God makes Lebanon skip joyfully, like a calf at play:

ONE: Restore to us, O God, the joy of our youth, the joy of freedom, the joy of peace; may it echo throughout the world.

ALL: The voice of our GOD shakes the wilderness:

ONE: Shake us, Mighty Wind of God!

ALL: Shake our institutions that oppress and discriminate against your people.

ONE: Shake our governments that seek war and not peace.

ALL: Shake all of our hearts and break up the stony places within us, and drench us in the baptism of compassion, tenderness, and justice.

ONE: And Jesus arose from the waters of the Jordan, and heard the voice of God: "This is my Son, the Beloved, in whom I am well pleased."

ALL: O God of earth and heaven, Sovereign from sea to shining sea, give strength to all your people and bless our world with peace.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

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** *I Am the Light of the World* #584 (v. 1-4)

BENEDICTION

RESPONSE *I Am the Light of the World* #584 (Refrain)
(Tune: LIGHT OF THE WORLD)

POSTLUDE *Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven* Lani Smith

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.

BIRTHDAYS

1/9 Karen Mallozzi

TODAY AFTER THE SERVICE we are taking down the Christmas decorations. Please stay and help the Deacons with this task.

EPIPHANY BIBLE STUDY starting on Monday, January 9 at 2:00 p.m. on Zoom. Join us for a deeper dive into the lectionary verses for Epiphany! In this season, we will be gathering on Zoom each week to read together and discuss the scriptures. Printed and electronic copies are available from the church office.

Here are all of the dates - 2:00 p.m. on Zoom.

Mondays - 1/9, 1/16, 1/23, 1/30

Monday - 2/6 (No Pastor Jason this week),

TUESDAY - 2/14

Monday - 2/20

For the Zoom meeting link, contact the church office at office@uccnorwichny.org or 607-334-3434.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2023, when we will have our first ever Mardi Gras service. Break out your beads and your most garish festive outfits, because we are going to swing – the jazz kind of swing, we mean – out of Epiphany and into Lent. Pastor Jason, Mary Williams, and Jason Handy have already started planning the service, and even Scarlett has Mardi Gras beads.

We are even hoping to have a special meal after worship that day. Perhaps a New Orleans-themed potluck? Perhaps a big pancake breakfast? We shall see! But we need folks who can step up and organize. If you are willing to do so, please let Pastor Jason know, so that the planning can continue. *Laissez les bons temps roulez!*

IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN - In case of inclement weather, please don't take any risks to get to church on a Sunday morning. You can tune in to the live stream at www.uccnorwichny.org/live-stream-2 If we cancel church all together, we will post on Facebook and Instagram, and also with a message on the church phone (607-334-3434).

TAKE A LOOK at the bulletin board and consider signing up to be an usher or liturgist or to provide coffee hour or flowers. There are many blank spots in the next few weeks. Thank you.

CALENDAR

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

- 9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
- 9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School, upstairs
- 10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion, Nave
- 11:00 a.m. Undecorate the Church - All are invited to help.
- 6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom

MONDAY, JANUARY 9

- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, on Zoom
- 2:00 p.m. Bible Study, on Zoom. (See announcements.)
- 3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Mayflower Room
- 3:00 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs
- 3:30 p.m. E. Fischer Lessons, Nave

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, on Zoom
- 1:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Kitchen

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

- 9:00 a.m. Home Bureau, Founder's Room
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Nave

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

- 9:00 a.m. AARP Tax Aid Training (tentative)
- 1:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Mayflower room

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

- 9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
- 9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School, upstairs
- 10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
- 6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor and Teacher: Rev. Jason Boyd

Liturgist: Ericka Tyler

Director of Music Ministries: Mary Williams

Organist Emeritus: Bob Oehme

Director of Children and Youth Ministries: Ericka Tyler

Live Stream: Jennifer Mallozzi, Chris McSweeney

Sunday Sexton: Elspeth Hunter

Nursery: Fiora Breese

Usher: Rose Laughlin

NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS 1/15

Usher:

Liturgist: Ed Tucker

Flowers:

Coffee Hour:

January 8, 2023

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

PASTOR AND TEACHER: Rev. Jason Boyd

MODERATOR: John Kolb

CHAIR OF DEACONS: Mary Williams

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES: Mary Williams

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES: Ericka Tyler

PARISH COORDINATOR: Cheri Oakley

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT: Jennifer Mallozzi

facebook



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.