

Martin Luther King, Jr.

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



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



An Open and Affirming Church

January 15, 2023

10:00 a.m

**Second Sunday After Epiphany
Martin Luther King Sunday in the UCC**

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Just as I Am*

Victor C. Johnson

Tune: WOODWORTH, William C. Bradbury

WELCOME

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God of our ancestors and God of our dreams, we gather today to remember that you have created us all in your image and in your likeness

ALL: And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.

ONE: We remember how you spoke into the darkness and created light.

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

Call To Worship, Invocation and Benediction by Rev. Trayce Potter

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ALL: And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.

ONE: We remember the ways you have delivered your people through trials and tribulations since the beginning of time, right up until this present moment.

ALL: And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.

ONE: You have comforted us through the middle passage, racism, segregation, stripped identities, voter suppression, and unjust laws.

ALL: And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.

ONE: God you have been the guiding light along the paths of Hope and Love leading toward a beloved community where all are equally seen and radically loved.

ALL: And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.

ONE: We gather today remembering your presence amongst us and the call to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with you and our neighbors.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

***OPENING HYMN** *Lift Every Voice and Sing* #593
(Tune: LIFT EVERY VOICE)

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 (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

Psalm 40:1-11

Pew Bible OT p. 567

John 1:29-42

Pew Bible NT p. 95

CHOIR ANTHEM

Lead Us From Death to Life (#581) Refrain by Satish Kumar

***Congregation joins on refrain** Stanzas and music
by Marty Haugen, 1985

SERMON *Guess Who's Coming to Executive Council*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INTERLUDE *Deep River*

Terry Osman

Based on a traditional spiritual

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** *We Shall Overcome* #570 (v. 1-3)
(Tune: WE SHALL OVERCOME)

BENEDICTION

ONE: God, we know we have come over a way that with tears
has been watered. We have come, treading our path
through the blood of the slaughtered.

**ALL: Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our star is cast.**

ONE: And we see you at work still creating a just world for
all.

**ALL: We leave empowered by the fresh winds of change
and the dream that is before us to be God's hands,
and feet and heart in this world today, tomorrow
and forever.**

ONE: We shall overcome.

ALL: We shall overcome.

ONE: And let all God's people say,

ALL: Amen.

RESPONSE *We Shall Overcome* #570 (v. 6)
(Tune: WE SHALL OVERCOME)

POSTLUDE *Postlude on "Lift Every Voice and Sing"*

John G. Barr
Tune: LIFT EVERY VOICE,
J. Rosamond Johnson

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor and Teacher: Rev. Jason Boyd

Liturgist: Ed Tucker

Director of Music Ministries: Mary Williams

Organist: Jason Handy

Director of Children's Ministries: Ericka Tyler

Live Stream: Chris McSweeney

Sunday Sexton: Elspeth Hunter

Nursery: Fiora Breese

Usher: Miranda Hunter

NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS 1/22

Usher: Elizabeth Barber-Breese

Liturgist: Miranda Hunter

Flowers: Obenauer Family

Coffee Hour:

January 15, 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.

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 - 1/20 Briana Phelps

CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING - **Sunday, January 29 following the worship service.**

PASTOR JASON will be doing some continuing education this week. This week and next, from Tuesday through Thursday, he will be in the Zoom classroom from 10am until 6pm, and will not be available during those times. He will be checking email and messages afterwards however.

SO YOU ALREADY KNOW IT'S COMING --- 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, and get ready for the saints to go marching in. **As we told you a few weeks ago, 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! Pat Burke has offered to organize the meal, but she needs help. Please think about this, we want to make this a great day. Pastor Jason has even obtained the Mardi Gras King Cake recipe from the Court of Two Sisters Restaurant in New Orleans, and he's willing to share it, but only when we know our Mardi Gras Feast is going to happen. Please consider helping, and let us know ASAP.

EPIPHANY BIBLE STUDY Monday at 2:00 p.m. on Zoom. 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. For the Zoom meeting link, contact the church office at office@uccnorwichny.org or 607-334-3434.

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 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

MONDAY, JANUARY 16

Church Office Closed

- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, on Zoom
- 2:00 p.m. Bible Study, on Zoom. (See announcements.)
- 3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders or Mayflower Room
- 3:00 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs
- 7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting, Zoom

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

- 9:00 a.m. AARP Tax Training, Founders' Rm.
- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, on Zoom
- 1:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Kitchen

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

- 9:00 a.m. Home Bureau, Founder's Room
- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Democratic Committee, Founders' Room
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Nave

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

- 9:00 a.m. AARP Tax Aid Training, Founders' Room
- 6:00 p.m. Helping Hands Give-away Night, YMCA
- 7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting, Zoom

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

- 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

Lead Us From Death to Live

#581

2 John 1:3; Isa. 2:2-4

Refrain, Satish Kumar
Stanzas, Marty Haugen, 1985

Refrain C C7 F G C G/B Am

Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to truth, from de -

Dm7 G C Dm7 C7/E C7 Dm7

spair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to

G C/E E7 Am Dm7 G

love, from war to peace; let peace fill our hearts, let

Em Am Dm7 C/E Dm/F C/G G7 C

peace fill our world, let peace fill our u - ni - verse.

to Stanzas

Dm7 G Em7 Am

1 Still all the an-gry cries, still all the an-gry guns, still now your
 2 So man-y lone-ly hearts, so man-y bro-ken lives, long-ing for
 3 Let jus-tice ev-er roll, let mer-cy fill the earth, let us be -

Dm7 G7 C Am Dm7

peo-ple die, earth's sons and daugh-ters. Let jus-tice roll, let
 love to break in - to their an - guish. Come, teach us love,
 gin to grow in - to your peo - ple. We can be love,

E7 Am F D7/F# C/G G7 C

mer - cy pour down, come and teach us your way of com - pas-sion.
 come, teach us peace, come and teach us your way of com - pas-sion.
 we can bring peace, we can still be your way of com - pas-sion.

to Refrain

The text for the refrain of this hymn is known as the "World Peace Prayer." It is a paraphrase of a verse from the Upanishads, the most ancient scriptures of Hinduism. Since its introduction at a service in Westminster Abbey on Hiroshima Day, 1981, the prayer has been translated into numerous languages and circulated around the world. The musical setting and additional stanzas were composed by Marty Haugen, composer-in-residence at Mayflower United Church of Christ, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Tune: WORLD PEACE PRAYER
 12.11.9.10. with refrain
 Marty Haugen, 1985

Lift Every Voice and Sing

James Weldon Johnson, 1921; alt.

1 Lift ev-ery voice and sing, till earth and heav - en ring, ring with the
 2 Ston-y the road we trod, bit-ter the chas-tening rod, felt in the
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, God who has


har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty; Let our re - joic - ing
 days when hope un - born had died; Yet with a stead - y
 brought us thus far on the way; God, who by your

rise, high as the lis - tening skies, let it re - sound loud as the
 beat, have not our wea - ry feet, come to the place for which our
 might, led us in - to the light, keep us for - ev - er in the

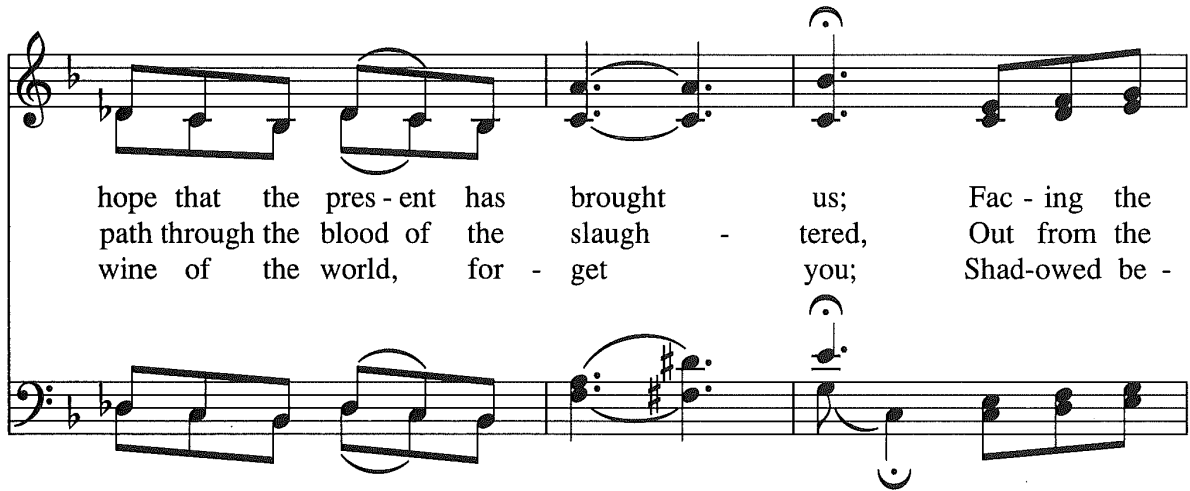
roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the
 peo - ple sighed? We have come o - ver a
 path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the

Poet James Weldon Johnson was the first African-American to pass the bar examination in the state of Florida, and served as U.S. consul in Venezuela and Nicaragua. He collaborated with his composer brother, John Rosamond Johnson, to write Broadway operettas and edit song collections. John appeared in vaudeville, directed London musicals, and headed the Music School Settlement in New York.

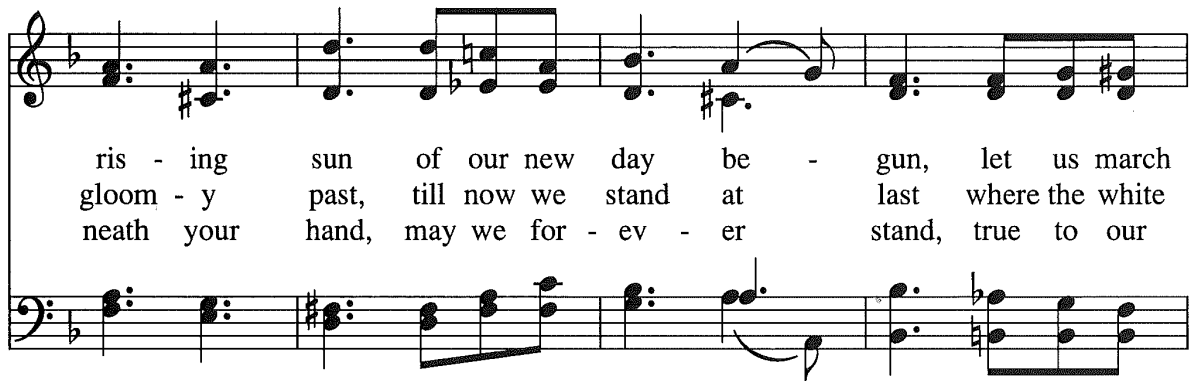
Tune: LIFT EVERY VOICE Irr.
J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921



faith that the harsh past has taught us, Sing a song full of the
 way that with tears has been wa - tered, We have come, tread - ing our
 plac - es, our God, where we met you, Lest our hearts, drunk with the



hope that the pres - ent has brought us; Fac - ing the
 path through the blood of the slaugh - tered, Out from the
 wine of the world, for - get you; Shad - owed be -



ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun, let us march
 gloom - y past, till now we stand at last where the white
 neath your hand, may we for - ev - er stand, true to our



on till vic - to - ry is won.
 gleam of our bright star is cast.
 God, true to our na - tive land.

We Shall Overcome

570

United States traditional

John 8:31–32; Rom. 12:21; 2 Cor. 13:11

1 We shall o - ver - come, we shall o - ver -
 2 We'll go hand in hand, we'll go hand in
 3 We are not a - fraid, we are not a -
 4 Our God will see us through, our God will see us

come, we shall o - ver - come some day;
 hand, we'll go hand in hand some day;
 fraid, we are not a - fraid to - day;
 through, our God will see us through some day;

(1–6) Oh, deep in my heart, I do be - lieve,

we shall o - ver - come some day.
 we'll go hand in hand some day.
 we are not a - fraid to - day.
 our God will see us through some day.

5 The truth shall make us free . . . some day.

6 We shall live in peace . . . some day.

This anthem of the 1960s civil rights movement was frequently sung at mass meetings and marches. Several sources have been cited as its origins, including the spiritual "No more auction block for me" based on the tune known as Sicilian Mariners; an old Baptist hymn "I'll Be All Right"; and part of the text from C. A. Tindley's gospel hymn "I'll Overcome Someday."

Tune: WE SHALL OVERCOME Irr.
 United States traditional
 Harm. J. Jefferson Cleveland, 1981