



*J. Smith*

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



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



**An Open and Affirming Church**

**March 12, 2023**

**10:00 a.m**

**Third Sunday in Lent**

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***PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD***

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**PRELUDE** *Prelude in B Minor Op. 28, No. 6*

Frederic Chopin

**WELCOME**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***GATHERING***

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**ONE:** Turn the tap and water comes out.

**ALL:** **Clean, refreshing water quenches our thirst.**

**ONE:** Stop at the market, twist open the cap.

**ALL:** **Spring water crosses our lips and our craving is satisfied.**

**ONE:** Step outdoors. Look up.

**ALL:** **The clouds dampen our faces and nourish the earth.**

**ONE:** Jesus answered,

**ALL:** **"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks from the water that I will give will never be thirsty again. The water that I give will become in those who drink it a spring of water that gushing up to eternal life."**

**ONE:** Please give us this water that we may never be thirsty again.

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\*Please stand in body or in spirit.

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

Cover Art: Judy Smith

Call to Worship: Rev. Tim Graves

Lenten Affirmation of Faith: Patmos Abbey—The Order of Saint Columba

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**ALL:** Come see the one who turns our thinking and our world upside down. Come see and experience the love that knows no bounds. Praise be to God!

**ONE:** Praise be to Jesus, whose life draws from the well of God's dreams.

**ALL:** Praise be to Christ Jesus, whose love and justice quenches our thirst with living water.

## **LENTEN SERVICE OF DIMINISHING LIGHTS**

**ALL:** Draw us together in your love, O God. May our restless hearts not resist you, but continue to search until they find their rest in you. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **\*OPENING HYMN**

*When Like the Woman at the Well*  
(Tune: MORNING SONG)

Insert

## **TIME OF SHARING**

### **CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

*Children in grades K-8 are excused to go upstairs to Sunday School at this time.*

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*God Will Make a Way*  
Michael Moren, soloist

words and music by Don Moen

### **PASTORAL BLESSING OF PEACE**

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

**ALL:** And also with you.

### **SUNG RESPONSE** *Peace*

by Judy A. Rose

Peace be to you in all you do.

Peace be the way in all you say.

Peace be the light that shines so bright  
from your heart on the world this day.

Peace, peace, peace, peace. Peace be to you in all you do.

Peace, peace, peace, peace. Peace be to you in all you do.

### **LENTEN INVITATION TO GENEROSITY**

**ONE:** O gracious God, we hear your voice calling us ...

**ALL:** To share whatever gift it is that you have given to us to do your work on Earth.

**ONE:** Gracious God, give us generous hearts ...

**ALL:** To acknowledge you as the giver of all good gifts, and to give without counting the cost.

**ONE:** Gracious God, give us generous hearts ...

**ALL:** To give without counting the cost, and to share without expecting something in return.

ONE: Gracious God, give us generous hearts ...  
**ALL: To share without expecting something in return.**  
ONE: Gracious God, give us generous hearts ...  
**ALL: To be wise in the way of caring for ourselves and others, and to hold all of our treasures and values with open hands.**  
ONE: Gracious God, give us generous hearts ...  
**ALL: To be gracious and unbegrudging in our giving, and to recognize the abundance of blessings in each passing day.**  
ONE: Gracious God, give us generous hearts ...  
**ALL: To grow in giving thanks for everything, to be happy with having what we need, and to be wise enough to know what it is that we want and do not need. . .**  
ONE: Give us generous hearts, and let us pray together....  
**ALL: O gracious God, who so generously lavishes our lives with goodness, create in our hearts a deep center of gratitude, a center that grows so strong in its thanksgiving that sharing freely of our treasures becomes the norm and the pattern of our existence. Remind us often of how much you cherish us, of how abundantly you have offered gifts to us, especially in the hours of our greatest need. May we always be grateful for your reaching into our lives with surprises of joy, growth, and unearned love. Amen.**

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

### ***WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD***

#### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Exodus 17:1-7  
John 4:5-42

Pew Bible OT p. 70  
Pew Bible NT p. 97

**SERMON** *Living Waters*

### ***RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD***

**INTERLUDE** *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* (EVAN)

By William H. Havergal, 1847  
Arr. Lowell Mason, 1850

#### **LENTEN AFFIRMING OUR FAITH**

**We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God, who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.**

**We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God, and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.**

**We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.**

**We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures,  
and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.**

**We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination,  
and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine.**

**We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road,  
and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.**

**This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ.  
Amen.**

## **SHARING OF JOYS/CONCERNS**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

## **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.**

## **COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*  
(Tune: EVAN)

**#489**

## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**



## **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.

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING** offering will be taken next Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. Envelopes will be available in the bulletin.

**LENTEN BOOK STUDY.** Discussion groups for *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem* are held on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. or Thursdays at 2:00 p.m. on Zoom through April 13<sup>th</sup>. A link to the Zoom meeting is available from the church office. Books are still available in the church office.

**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](http://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).

**FREE TAX PREPARATION** - AARP Foundation's Tax-Aide program provides *FREE* tax preparation regardless of age to anyone who cannot afford a paid tax service and especially people 55 or older. Volunteer tax preparers work from the UCC Church in Norwich three days per week from February 13 to April 14. **If you want to use this service, you must call Chenango County Area Agency on Aging at 607-337-1770 for an appointment.** Walk-ins will not be accommodated. Please note that this tax service does not handle the following tax situations: foreclosures; farms; rental income and properties; businesses; self-employed with inventories and off-setting expenses; energy tax credits; and anyone who owns digital currencies.

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS** for high school seniors and college students are available on the church website([www.uccnorwichny.org](http://www.uccnorwichny.org)) under the LINKS tab. Deadline to apply is April 15.

**JASON HANDY'S MASTERS RECITAL** is on Sunday, March 26 at 7:30 p.m. in Casadesus Recital Hall, Binghamton University. He will perform works by Richard Strauss, Benjamin Britten, Valerie Coleman and Johannes Brahms. You are invited to attend.

## **CALENDAR**

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

### **SUNDAY, MARCH 12**

9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs  
10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave  
Sunday School after the Children's Moment  
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour, Founders' Rm.  
11:30 a.m. Bell Choir, upstairs  
6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom'

### **MONDAY, MARCH 13**

8:00 a.m. AARP Tax Prep, Founders' Rm.  
10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom  
3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Mayflower Room  
3:00 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs  
7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting, Zoom

### **TUESDAY, MARCH 14**

8:00 a.m. AARP Tax Prep, Founders' Rm.  
1:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Mayflower Room  
7:00 p.m. Book Discussion Group on Zoom. (See announcements.)

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15**

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

**THURSDAY, MARCH 16**

8:00 a.m. AARP Tax Prep, Founders' Rm.  
 2:00 p.m. Book Discussion Group, (see announcements) on Zoom  
 7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting, Zoom

**FRIDAY, MARCH 17 - St. Patrick's Day**

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

**SATURDAY, MARCH 18**

9:00 a.m. Piecemakers National Quilting Day, Founders' Room

**SUNDAY, MARCH 12**

9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs  
 10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave  
                   Sunday School after the Children's Moment  
 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour, Founders' Rm.  
 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir, upstairs  
 6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom

**TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:**

**Pastor and Teacher:** Rev. Jason Boyd  
**Liturgist:** Michael Moren  
**Director of Music Ministries:** Mary Williams  
**Organist:** Jason Handy  
**Director of Children and Youth Ministries:** Ericka Tyler  
**Live Stream:** Jennifer Mallozzi, Chris McSweeney  
**Sunday Sexton:** Elspeth Hunter  
**Nursery:** Fiora Breese  
**Usher:** Rose Laughlin  
**Coffee Hour:** Pat and Tom Whitmore

**NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS - 3/19**

Usher: Pat and Tom Whitmore  
 Liturgist: Miranda Hunter  
 Flowers: available  
 Coffee Hour: Mary and Pete Williams

**March 12, 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.