



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



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



An Open and Affirming Church

April 2, 2023

10:00 a.m

**Palm and Passion Sunday
Communion**

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Hosanna Fanfare*

David Lasky

WELCOME

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We come to prepare for the holiest of weeks.

ALL: We will journey through praise, with joy on our lips; we will travel through betrayal and death, cradling hope deep in our hearts.

ONE: Jesus leads us through this week, and we will follow, for He is the life we long for, He is the Word who sustains us.

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

CovertArt: Judy Smith

Call to Worship: Rev. Thom Shuman

Communion Liturgy: Rev. Maren Tirabassi

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

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ALL: We wave palm branches in anticipation, we lay our love before Him, to cushion His walk.

ONE: Setting aside all power, glory, and might, Jesus comes.

ALL: Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest heaven!

LENTEN SERVICE OF DIMINISHING LIGHTS

UNISON PRAYER

Loving God, there are so many choices before us every day. Choices offered by our friends, our families, our culture, our own past. Some of them encourage the well-being of the earth, ourselves and our neighbors; others are destructive. Help us to distinguish between them. May we learn from the choices of Jesus and embody compassion, justice, and inclusion in all we say and do. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* #213
(Tune: ELLACOMBE)

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 26:14-29

Pew Bible NT p. 30

INVITATION TO THE TABLE *(adapted from Psalm 126)*

ONE: Come to this table, wherever it is set, all you who go out weeping, bearing the seeds of desperate hope, lingering sadness, loss, fear, or depression, bearing the seeds of sunflowers.

ALL: Come to this table, wherever it is set, all you who come home with joy, with release from pain, with new tender love, soft vintage love, child-smile, or good memory.

ONE: Come to this ordinary table of God's extraordinary love.

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

(adapted from John 12:1-8)

ONE: We remember so many different tables of Jesus – His acceptance of hospitality from Peter's mother-in-law and Zacchaeus, the Syrophenician woman's challenge, the generous boy with his lunch.

ALL: We remember a meal Martha served, with food Jesus didn't criticize, a living but endangered Lazarus sitting at the table, and the gift of costly perfume Mary poured over Jesus' feet.

ONE: There is always controversy about how to love God, live in justice, and share compassion.

ALL: Jesus remembered six days later what Mary had done and washed His disciples' dirty, calloused toes.

ONE: We, too, remember – the Passover with a betrayer, a denier, a doubter, all clean and loved.

ALL: Jesus used what was familiar, accessible and ordinary – bread already on the table and a cup for all lips.

ONE: And so we share from this table.

ALL: We share from this table – knowing that some of us cook, some anoint, some argue, some simply eat, and there are many present whom Christ has returned to life.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

UNISON PRAYER

Holy God, bless every piece of bread near the mouth of any one of your children so that it becomes the strength and hope and holiness we need. Bless a small plastic cup or a beautiful chalice, and every glass in between, reminding us that we can never spill our love, and that we always and in all places drink your healing. Amen.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

(adapted from Isaiah 43:16-21)

God, we give you thanks that we are the people chosen in this meal, chosen to make new paths, new ways in the wilderness of sorrows, losses and injustices, dangers to all creatures and the earth itself. From this blessed meal we take hope that even war may be quenched, and that we can recognize your new things springing forth, and commit ourselves to be the bringers of their blessings to all people. Amen.

TIME OF SHARING

CHOIR ANTHEM *Antiphonal Hosanna* by G. Alan Smith

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Children K-8 are invited to go upstairs to Sunday School at this time.

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 READING

Matthew 21:1-11

Pew Bible NT p. 23

SERMON *After The Palms Are Gone*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INTERLUDE

LENTEN AFFIRMATION OF 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** *Ah, Holy Jesus* #218
(Tune: HERZLIEBSTER JESU)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* Lloyd Larson



HOLY WEEK

(All services will also be live streamed)

Maundy Thursday - April 6

7:00 p.m. Service with communion, Nave

Good Friday - April 7

7:00 p.m. Union Service

at Broad St. United Methodist Church

Easter Sunday - April 9

10:00 a.m. - Worship Service

Celebrating the Resurrection

No Sunday School.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE ARE STILL WORKING to provide a safe and clean environment for worship and other activities. You can read our full COVID SAFETY PROTOCOLS posted on the bulletin board and online. There is a button on our homepage: <www.uccnorwichny.org>. Or use this direct link <https://www.uccnorwichny.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Covid-Protocols-04_01_22.pdf>

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 with the Sunday School children – whatever works best for your family.

OUR PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY TO Rena Hall for the loss of her son, **John Cobb** on February 16, 2023.

PASTOR JASON will be away from Norwich from after worship on Sunday, April 23 until the evening of Thursday, May 4. During that time, Rev. Laura Wade of Christ Lutheran Church on North Broad Street will be available for emergency pastoral care; she can be reached by email at acl2876@outlook.com, or by phone at 607-227-1901.

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 13th. A link to the Zoom meeting is available from the church office. Books are still available in the church office.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS for high school seniors and college students are available on the church website (www.uccnorwichny.org) under the LINKS tab. The deadline is April 15.

CALENDAR

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 2 - Palm Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
- 10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave
Sunday School - children excused during service
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour, Founders' Rm.
- 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir, upstairs
- 4:00 p.m. Executive Council, Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom

MONDAY, APRIL 3

- 8:00 a.m. AARP Tax Prep, Founders' Rm.
- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom
- 10:00 a.m. UCC Knitting Group, Mayflower Room
- 3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Mayflower Room
- 3:00 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

- 8:00 a.m. AARP Tax Prep, Founders' Rm.
- 1:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Mayflower Room
- 3:30 p.m. E. Fischer Lessons, Nave
- 7:00 p.m. Book Discussion Group on Zoom. (See announcements.)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

- 9:00 a.m. Home Bureau, Founders' Room
- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom
- 1:00 p.m. Bulletin Board updates, Founders' Room
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Nave

THURSDAY, APRIL 6 - Maundy Thursday

- 8:00 a.m. AARP Tax Prep, Founders' Rm.
- 2:00 p.m. Book Discussion Group, (see announcements) on Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service, Nave and livestream

FRIDAY, APRIL 7 - Good Friday

10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, on Zoom
3:00 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs
7:00 p.m. Good Friday service at Broad St. United
Methodist Church, 74 N. Broad St.

SUNDAY, APRIL 9 - Easter Sunday

9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave
No Sunday School
11:30 a.m. Bell Choir, upstairs
6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom

April 2, 2023

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor and Teacher: Rev. Jason Boyd

Liturgist: Elinor Beebe

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: Katie Izzo

Coffee Hour: Jessica Posner

NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS - April 9 - Easter Sunday

Usher: Elizabeth Barber-Breese

Liturgist: Bob Oehme

Flowers: silk arrangements by Pat Burke

Coffee Hour: no coffee hour

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

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.