



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



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



**An Open and Affirming Church**

**April 30, 2023**

**10:00 a.m**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Earth Day Sunday (observed)**

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***PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD***

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**PRELUDE** *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

Larry Shackley

Tunes: BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

by William H. Monk and

ROYAL OAK, English Folk Melody

arr. By Martin Shaw

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***GATHERING***

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**ONE:** Morning has broken. Let us give thanks for the gift of  
life and for the presence of the Holy One among us.  
Let us worship God together.

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

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\*Please stand in body or in spirit.

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

Easter Affirmation of Faith Attribution: adapted from Sister Joan Chittister

Invitation to Generosity Attribution: Rev. Michelle Torigian

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## **UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

O God, distant yet near, we gather as witnesses to your promise that if we seek you with all our hearts we will find you. Be among us this day. Hear the confessions of our mouths and the yearnings of our hearts. Help us change the narrowness of our vision and the pettiness of our living. Make us new again with your grace, grant us maturity to accept with humility your many gifts and to use them with wisdom. And make us a joy- filled company of your people so that with the faithful in every place and time we may praise and honor you, God most high. Amen.

## **\*OPENING HYMN**

*Heaven and Earth, and Sea and Air*  
(Tune: GOTT SEI DANK)

#566

## ***TIME OF SHARING***

## **CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

*Children in grades K-8 are invited to remain in the front pew for special music.*

## **ANTHEM** *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Leona Tyler, flute

Words by Folliot S. Pierpoint  
Tune: DIX by Conrad Kocher  
Arranged by Anna Laura Page

*Children in grades 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.

**EASTER INVITATION TO GENEROSITY**

ONE: We are people of the Resurrection.

**ALL: We are God's people, profoundly grateful for the incredible gift of the resurrected Christ.**

ONE: We hear God's call to live into the Resurrection in all we do.

**ALL: God calls for us to give in a spirit of abundance.**

ONE: Through our gifts, we are able to reach many people outside of the church's walls.

**ALL: Through our treasures, our mission continues – even when the world slows down.**

ONE: With hearts of hope and openness, we pray together...

**ALL: Divine Tranquility, may we embrace your steadfast peace. Through your peace, may we confidently give our treasures, talent, and time in order for the work of the church to continue. Through your peace, may our congregation utilize these gifts wisely to reach a world filled with anxiety and uncertainty and to share your hope and love. Amen.**

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

## WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

### SCRIPTURE

Psalm 23 (sung)


The Congregation sings the response at each Response symbol ( $\mathcal{R}$ ), where indicated. The Leader will sing the Psalm verses.

### Psalm 23

*Response*

*Antiphon: Carolyn Jennings, 1994*

*E♭ Unison*



God re - stores my soul and leads me in right paths.

$\mathcal{R}$

<sup>1</sup>God is my shepherd, I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup>God makes me lie down in green pastures, and leads me beside still waters;

<sup>3</sup>God restores my soul, and leads me in right paths for the sake of God's name.

<sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff — they comfort me.  $\mathcal{R}$

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of God my whole life long.  $\mathcal{R}$

### SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2:42-47

Pew Bible NT 124

### READING

The Now Testament, by Wendell Berry

### SERMON

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

### **INTERLUDE**

*Im wunderschönen Monat Mai  
(In the wonderful month of May)*

Robert Schumann

### **EASTER AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

ONE: We are Easter people. We are people of the Resurrection.

**ALL: In Easter we see the transformation of the Jesus who rises from the dead in Jerusalem to the Jesus who rises in us.**

ONE: The Resurrection of Jesus is about coming to grips with the transformed and transforming presence of Christ then, now, and always.

**ALL: Once that happens, our lives are never again the same. Our lives begin anew.**

ONE: The Resurrection goes on and on and on forever.

**ALL: Every time Jesus rises in our own hearts in new ways, the Resurrection happens again.**

ONE: Every time we see Jesus where we did not recognize him before—in the faces of the poor, in the love of the unloved, in the revelatory moments of life, Jesus rises anew.

**ALL: Once the Christ-life rises in us, we rise to new life as well. Christ is risen; we are risen.**

### **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**      *Touch the Earth Lightly*      #569  
(Tune: TENDERNESS)

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

*Break Forth, Ye Heavens!*      Edward Broughton



## 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.

**PASTOR JASON** is away from Norwich from 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](mailto:acl2876@outlook.com), or by phone at 607-227-1901.

**HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE** is holding their annual Spring Plant sale. There are many plants to choose from. See the bulletin board for a brochure with details and an order form. Deadline to order is May 3rd.

**THE MAY/JUNE** edition of *The Upper Room* devotional is available on the table outside the church office.

**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](http://www.uccnorwichny.org).

**April 30, 2023**

**TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:**

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

**Liturgist:** Katie Izzo

**Director of Music Ministries:** Mary Williams

**Organist:** Jason Handy

**Flutist:** Leona Tyler (recipient of Music Lessons Scholarships)

**Director of Children and Youth Ministries:** Ericka Tyler

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

**Sunday Sexton:** Elspeth Hunter

**Nursery:** Fiora Breese

**Coffee Hour:** Deacons

**NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS - 5/7**

**Usher:** Pete Williams

**Liturgist:** Elinor Beebe

**Flowers:** Jane Prime

**Coffee Hour:**

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST FIRST CONGREGATIONAL**

11 West Main St., Norwich NY 13815

607-334-3434 - [office@uccnorwichny.org](mailto:office@uccnorwichny.org) - [www.uccnorwichny.org](http://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

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**CHURCH OFFICE OPEN**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.



## **CALENDAR**

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

### **SUNDAY, APRIL 30**

- 9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
- 10:00 a.m. Earth Day Sunday Worship, Nave  
Guest Speaker: Rev. Beth Frigard  
(Sunday School K-8)
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
- 6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom

### **MONDAY, MAY 1**

- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom
- 10:00 a.m. UCC Knitting Group, Kitchen
- 3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders Room
- 3:00 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs

### **TUESDAY, MAY 2**

- 1:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Kitchen
- 3:30 p.m. E. Fischer Lessons, Nave

### **WEDNESDAY, MAY 3**

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

### **FRIDAY, MAY 5**

- 9:00 a.m. Rummage Sale - Half Price - until 1:00 p.m.  
at First Baptist Church, 10 W. Park Place
- 9:00 a.m. Rummage Sale until 7:00 p.m.  
at Broad St. UMC, 74 N. Broad St.
- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, on Zoom
- 3:00 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs

### **SATURDAY, MAY 6**

- 9:00 a.m. Rummage Sale until 2:00 p.m.  
at Broad St. UMC, 74 N. Broad St.

### **SUNDAY, MAY 7**

- 9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
- 10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion, Nave (Sunday School K-8)
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
- 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir, upstairs
- 2:00 p.m. Executive Council, Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom