



For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim  
the Lord's death until he comes.

— 1 Corinthians 11:26

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



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



**An Open and Affirming Church**

**May 7, 2023**

**10:00 a.m**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

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***PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD***

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**PRELUDE** *Jesus, Jesus, Jesus in the Morning,*  
H. Robert James  
traditional African-American medley

**WELCOME**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***GATHERING***

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**ONE:** Out of a world of cut-throat competition, of winners-and-losers, and too many left behind we come together.

**ALL:** **The world's ways are not our ways. The world's ways are not Christ's ways.**

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\*Please stand in body or in spirit.

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

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Attributions: Call to Worship: Rev. Tim Graves;  
Prayer of Invocation: Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell;  
Communion Liturgy: Rev. Mary Luti;  
Easter Affirmation of Faith: Sister Joan Chittister;  
Invitation to Generosity: Rev. Michelle Torigian

ONE: Out of a world of hatred, violence, individualism, and life-taking power we gather as God's people.

**ALL: God's ways are inclusive, expansive, and life-giving for all peoples.**

ONE: Come and worship the One whose love knows no limits!

**ALL: Swim and splash in the cleansing waters of divine community!**

ONE: Resurrect your spirits and souls in worship of the One!

**ALL: Praise be to the Everlasting One!**

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

### **\*OPENING HYMN**

*God of Grace and God of Glory* # 436 (vv. 1,2,3,5)

(Tune: CWM RHONDDA)

## **SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

### **WE COME TO THE TABLE**

ONE: Easter people, come now to the table with Christ!

**ALL: For he is risen! He lives, and presides at this Feast!**

ONE: Come, eat together the Bread of Life!

**ALL: For he is risen, and nothing separates us from God's love!**

ONE: Come, drink together from the Cup of Gladness!

**ALL: For Christ is risen! Risen as he said! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

ONE: Come, drink together from the Cup of Gladness!

**ALL: For Christ is risen! Risen as he said! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

ONE: And let us pray together:

**ALL: Praise to you, God of glory! You created the universe and all living things. You breathed life into our dust and gave us a paradise. You sought us when we hid ourselves, ashamed of our sin. You made a people for yourself, and saved them from oppression. In the fullness of time, your love came also to us in your servant Jesus. He ministered to us, healing, overcoming divisions,**

welcoming all. He died on the cross of shame. But you vindicated him, giving him a life that is forever new! This is the life he shares with us: a life of justice, mercy, and citizenship in your realm of peace. All your creatures testify to your mighty deeds! They declare your everlasting love!

ONE: We too proclaim it, as with the angels of heaven we sing:

ALL: Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!  
My heart is glad to say the words: you are holy,  
God.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **PRAYER OF BLESSING**

ONE: Come, Holy Spirit, bless this bread that earth has given and human hands have made. Bless also this fruit of the vine, created for our gladness. Make them the food and drink of everlasting life, body surrendered, blood poured out.

ALL: As we rejoice in the resurrection, give us love for each other, and make us servants of peace, until your New Realm is revealed, and every creature beholds it. We pray in the name of Jesus, who lives and presides at this table, our host and our feast. Amen.

## **SHARING BREAD AND CUP**

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

ONE: Let us pray together:

ALL: Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus, for gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation, and for the mission of justice you have made our own. Give us the gifts of this Holy Communion – oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day, and risen life that never ends. Amen.

ONE: And let us sing together:

**ALL: Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!  
My heart is glad to say the words: you are holy,  
God.**

### ***TIME OF SHARING***

#### **CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

*Children are invited to stay in the front pew during the Choir Anthem.*

**ANTHEM** *Thee We Adore*

Plainchant tune  
arr. Ralph M. Johnson

*Children in K-8 are excused to go upstairs for Sunday School.*

#### **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 READINGS**

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
John 14:1-14

Pew Bible OT p. 560  
Pew Bible NT p. 112

**SERMON** *A Place for You*

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

#### **INTERLUDE**

#### **AFFIRMING OUR 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**

*Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*  
(Tune: REGENT SQUARE)

#400

## **BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *Fanfare*

Antonio Soler

**May 7, 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:** Pete Williams

**Coffee Hour:** Deacons

*The Flowers are in honor of Theron Hust  
from Jane, Ann and John.*

**NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS - 5/14**

**Usher:** Elizabeth Barber-Breese

**Liturgist:** John Kolb

**Flowers:** Gary Gray

**Coffee Hour:**

**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.



## **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.

**THE DOOR LOCKS** will be changed to a key fob system by the end of this month. Those people with keys to the building will need to pick up a new key fob from Cheri Oakley, Parish Coordinator. Cheri will be contacting you when the date of the change-over is more firm, but if you have a key and haven't heard from her, please feel free to contact her at the office at 607-334-3434 or [office@uccnorwichny.org](mailto:office@uccnorwichny.org).

**IT'S ANNUAL REPORT TIME** - If you are responsible for one of the following, please get your report to the church office by May 31st.

- Executive Council
- Nominating Committee
- Board of Trustees
- Memorial Gifts Committee
- Board of Deacons
- Historian (received)
- Director of Youth & Children's Ministries
- Knitting Group

Copies of last year's reports are available from Cheri Oakley, Parish Coordinator. Email her at [office@uccnorwichny.org](mailto:office@uccnorwichny.org) or call 607-334-3434 and leave a message.

**MONDAY EVENING MUSICAL CLUB** invites you to their annual Scholarship Winner and advanced Student Recital tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. in the Nave. Our own Ellie Hunter is a recipient of a scholarship and will be performing. A livestream will be available on Facebook. Free will offering to benefit the Scholarship Fund. All are welcome.

**THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING** scheduled for later today has been postponed.

**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).

## **CALENDAR**

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

### **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, Founders' Rm.
- 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir, upstairs
- 6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom

### **MONDAY, MAY 8**

- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom
- 3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders Room
- 3:00 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs
- 7:00 p.m. Music Club Scholarship Winner recital. See announcements for details.

### **TUESDAY, MAY 9**

- 1:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Kitchen

### **WEDNESDAY, MAY 10**

- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Nave

### **THURSDAY, MAY 11**

- 1:00 p.m. Piecemakers Meeting, Founders' Rm., Kitchen

### **FRIDAY, MAY 12**

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

### **SUNDAY, MAY 14**

- 9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
- 10:00 a.m. Worship, 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