



*While he was blessing them,
he withdrew from them
and
was carried up into
Heaven.*

Luke 24:51

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



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



An Open and Affirming Church

May 21, 2023

10:00 a.m

**Ascension Sunday
Seventh Sunday of Easter**

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Fuga*

Alessandro Scarlatti

WELCOME

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: A new day has begun.

ALL: Hope wins!

ONE: A fresh start is granted.

ALL: Faith wins!

ONE: Today you have the opportunity to do something new.

ALL: Hope wins!

ONE: Christ is entering your life in a new way.

ALL: Faith wins!

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

Call to Worship: Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell

Prayer of Invocation: United Methodist Church/Saint Luke Publications

Permission to reprint, podcast, and / or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #735996-A. All rights reserved.

ONE: Come, let us worship God, who is inviting us into life in a new way, a way that transcends death, a way of hope and faith.

ALL: Love wins! Let us worship Christ, who overcame death to give us new life!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

***OPENING HYMN** *Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!* # 257
(Tune: HYFRYDOL)

TIME OF SHARING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

(Children are invited to stay in the front pew during the anthem.)

ANTHEM *I Will Rise* by Chris Thomlin, Jesse Reeves,
Louie Giglio and Matt Maher
arranged by Craig Courtney and Lynda Hasseler

(Children in grades K-8 are invited to go upstairs for 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 READINGS

Acts 1:1-11

Pew Bible NT p. 122

Luke 24:44-53

Pew Bible NT p. 93

REFLECTION 50

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INTERLUDE

Partita on "Adoro to devote" Il. Canon

Anthony Giamanco

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**

Give Me Jesus

Insert

(Tune: GIVE ME JESUS)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Festive Praise

Lloyd Larson

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.

OUR PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY TO the family and loved ones of Julie Gonzalez, who passed away on May 17, 2023.

THERE IS A NEW DISPLAY in the Memorial Cabinet in the hallway outside the church office. Take a look and you'll see how different our church building used to look.

THE DOOR LOCKS are changing to a key fob system. If you currently have a key, you will be contacted when it is time to pick up a new key fob.

ANNUAL REPORT - CHANGE OF DEADLINE TO MAY 28.

Reports needed from the following:

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 or call 607-334-3434 and leave a message.

MID YORK CONCERT BAND will present a concert at 2:00 p.m. today, May 21, at the Norwich High School auditorium. They are a 40-piece band made up of professionals, teachers and dedicated amateurs from Chenango and surrounding counties. Selections include a wide range, from Gabriel Faure to Leonard Bernstein and Westside Story. A musical tribute to the Armed Forces will also be played. All are welcome. A free-will offering will be taken.

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 21

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. Mid York Concert Band, Norwich High School.

(See announcements.)

6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom

MONDAY, MAY 22

10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom

3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders Room

TUESDAY, MAY 23

1:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Kitchen

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Nave

THURSDAY, MAY 25

7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting, Zoom

FRIDAY, MAY 26

10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom

SATURDAY, MAY 27

9:00 a.m. First Baptist Church Diaper Give-away, West
Park Place, Norwich

SUNDAY, MAY 28 - Day of Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs

10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave - *Strengthen the Church Offering*

Sunday School K-8

11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

11:30 a.m. Bell Choir, upstairs

6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom

May 21, 2023

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor and Teacher: Rev. Jason Boyd

Liturgist: John Kolb

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: Jane Prime

Vocal Ensemble:

Sopranos: Sarah Benson, Destinie Smith, Ericka Tyler, Leona Tyler

Altos: Amy Rogers, Megan Carpenter, Mary Williams

NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS - 5/28

Usher: Lilit Danielyan

Liturgist: Mary Williams

Flowers:

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.