Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.

JOHN 6:56, NRSV

United Church of Christ
Norwich, New York

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

An Open and Affirming Church

July 2, 2023 **10:00 a.m**

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Communion

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Erhalt uns, Herr, bei deinem Wort*
Johann Gotfried Walther

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP
ONE: Come to the water, all you who thirst.
ALL: Come drink deeply from the river of life.
ONE: Come to the water, all you who are weary.
ALL: Come rest in the quiet pools of God's love.
ONE: Come to the water, all you who long for justice.
ALL: Come be renewed in God's ever-flowing stream.
ONE: For God is here among us, washing away the dust and grime of our lives, and pouring out the Spirit on all who thirst.
ALL: Let's worship God together.

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*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

Call to Worship, Prayer of Invocation: Rev. Christine Longhurst
Communion Liturgy: enfleshed

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PRAYER OF INVOCATION

***OPENING HYMN**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise #1
(Tune: ST. DENIO)

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

WE COME TO THE TABLE

ONE: The Holy One be with you.
ALL: And also with you.
ONE: Open your hearts to the One who is Love.
ALL: We open our hearts to you, O God.
ONE: Let us give thanks to God, who gathers us together.
ALL: To the One who welcomes us to the table, we give thanks and praise.
ONE: Let us pray:
ALL: God, your invitation to come and feast in your presence is but a taste of the love you extend to us every day. By your very nature, you are always seeking us out – searching for ways to connect us and connect with us. You meet us in the most ordinary of places and you make them sacred. By your grace, we come to recognize the holiness that dwells in the world around us, in our neighbors, in our own internal depths.
ONE: Therefore we join our voices with your people on earth and all the company of the heavens, raising our praises to you, the Holy one and God of justice and love.
ALL: Heaven and earth are full of your wonder; Hosanna, among us. Blessed are you and blessed is your eternal table. You welcome all who thirst for justice and hunger to grow in love. You ask us to extend this same welcome to all our neighbors, but God, since our beginning, we have struggled.
ONE: And so in your love for us, you took on flesh in Jesus. Through his life, you pointed to your presence on the margins. You revealed the sacredness in all life. You showed us how to live together, even among forces of destruction.
ALL: Believing it could transform the world, Jesus proclaimed the Good News. He called for the captives to be set free. He spoke of the lowly being lifted up. He talked of redistributing wealth and eradicating the causes of poverty. His commitment to practicing love knew no bounds – not even the bounds of death. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

UNISON PRAYER OF BLESSING
Pour out your Spirit on these gifts, O God. Make these ordinary elements into the Sacred gift of your presence with us once again. May they awaken us anew to your everlasting invitation into a life of resurrection. Aliven us in our pursuit of a world where all needs are met, power is balanced, and the worth of every creature and creation is celebrated. In collective longing for a taste of your realm on earth, we join together in this meal. Amen.

SHARING BREAD AND CUP

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
God, by the bread of heaven and the cup of life, you make us one body. Bind us together by your spirit that we might live into your hopes for us, a community centered in Christ and rich in compassion, commitment, courage, and care. May it be so. Amen.

TIME OF SHARING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SPECIAL MUSIC *For Good* by Stephen Schwartz
from the Broadway musical *Wicked*
Sarah Benson and Destinie Smith

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.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND GENEROSITY

DISCIPLESHIP PLEDGE (An Offertory Prayer)
ONE: We love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.
ALL: We pledge our whole selves to God.
ONE: We love our neighbors as ourselves.
ALL: We pledge to do justice as Christ's ambassadors of reconciliation.
ONE: We love one another as Jesus loves us.
ALL: We pledge to be and become Christ's Beloved Community in our life together.
ONE: We make disciples by teaching and modeling how to follow Jesus' Way of Love.
ALL: We pledge to be Jesus' disciples sharing Jesus' Way of Love in the way we live our lives and practice our faith.

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

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 13	Pew Bible OT p. 545
Matthew 10:40-42	Pew Bible NT p. 11

REFLECTION *Waters*

*RESPONDING TO GOD'S WOR***D**

INTERLUDE *Voluntary* William Horation Clarke (1840-1913)

AFFIRMING OUR FAITH
ONE: We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
ALL: God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:
ONE: You call the worlds into being,
ALL: create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.
ONE: You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.
ALL: You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.
ONE: In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot,
ALL: conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.
ONE: You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,

ALL: creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.
ONE: You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others,
ALL: to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.
ONE: You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
ALL: courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.
ONE: Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.
ALL: 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** *Blessed Assurance* # 473
(Tune: ASSURANCE)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *March* Flor Peeters

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NURSERY CARE is available for children up to the age of five beginning at 9:00am - up the stairs at the front of the building.

PASTOR JASON WILL BE AWAY FOR SUMMER VACATION starting after church July 2 until July 25. During that time, Rev. Mary Rublee from Broad Street United Methodist Church will be available for emergency pastoral care. Her contact information will be available in the church office and the July newsletter.

SUMMER YOUTH GROUP for grades 7-12 Sundays, July 9 through August 27, 12:00pm - 1:30pm. This will be a mostly unstructured time where students can come to relax and unwind, play some games, have snacks (and maybe pizza!), and spend time hanging with their friends in a safe and welcoming environment.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON Monday and Tuesday this week.

CHURCH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS July 5 through August 25 - Monday through Thursday, 8:00am to 12:00pm.

THE NORWICH COMMUNITY VACATION BIBLE CAMP, *Holy Ever After,* will be held July 23 through Wednesday, July 26 from 5:30 to 7:30pm at the Christ Lutheran Church. Fun, games and learning are planned. Dinner provided.

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 on our website.

CALENDAR

The Chenango Muslim Community meets upstairs daily at 9:30pm & Fridays at 1:30pm

SUNDAY, JULY 2
9:00am Nursery, upstairs
10:00am Worship/Communion, Nave
6:00pm LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom

MONDAY, JULY 3 - Church Office Closed
10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom
3:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Room

TUESDAY, JULY 4 - Church Office Closed

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5
10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom
11:00am Free hotdog lunch at Emmanul Espiscopal CHurch

July 2, 2023

THURSDAY, JULY 6
10:00am H. Rauscher, Founders Rm.

FRIDAY, JULY 7
10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom

SUNDAY, 9
9:00am Nursery, upstairs
10:00am Worship, Nave - Rev. Gary Smith,
Racial Justice Coordinator, UCCNY Conference
11:00am Coffee Hour
6:00pm LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:
Pastor and Teacher: Rev. Jason Boyd
Liturgist: Michael Moren
Director of Music Ministries: Mary Williams
Interim Organist: Robert Oehme
Soloists: Sarah Benson and Destinie Smith
Live Stream: Jennifer Mallozzi, Chris McSweeney
Sunday Sexton: Elspeth Hunter
Nursery: Fiora Breese

NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS - 7/9
Usher:
Liturgist: Elinor Beebe
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: Pete Williams
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES: Mary Williams
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES: Ericka Tyler
PARISH COORDINATOR: Cheri Oakley
FINANCIAL ASSISTANT: Jennifer Mallozzi

CHURCH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS
Monday - Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.