



Gladden the soul
of Your servant,
For to You, O Lord,

*I lift up
my soul.*

PSALM 86:4, NRSV

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



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



An Open and Affirming Church

June 25, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *I Know my Father Lives*

Reid N. Nibley, 1923
arr. Laurel Hunt Pederson

WELCOME

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Loving God, you call us to turn away from our own selfish interests, to take up our cross, and to follow you.

ALL: **To find our lives, may we live them in service of your mission.**

ONE: As we come before you this morning, give us open hearts and open hands.

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

Call to Worship: The Minor Keys

Prayer of Invocation: Rev. Margaret Spong

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ALL: Make us eager to hear your voice and seek your guidance.

ONE: Open our minds to your ever-present spirit that is always moving within and around us.

ALL: Open our spirits to your nudging and open our lives to your love.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

***OPENING HYMN** *De Colores (Sing of Colors)* #402
(Tune: DE COLORES)

TIME OF SHARING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

ANTHEM *Lead Us from Death to Life* (#581)
Congregation joins on Refrain

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 READING

Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

Pew Bible OT p. 602

Matthew 10:24-39

Pew Bible NT p. 10

REFLECTION *The Sword and the Cross*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INTERLUDE *Just As I Am*

William B. Bradbury
arr. Jenifer Cook

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** *God's Eye Is On The Sparrow* #475
(Tune: SPARROW)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Search, Ponder, and Pray

Carol Baker Black, 1951
arr. Laurel Hunt Pederson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NURSERY CARE is available for children up to the age of five beginning at 9:00am. The Nursery is located 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.

LITURGISTS NEEDED: We need liturgists for July 16 and July 23 when Pastor Jason is away. Please consider signing up. Everything you need to say is written out for you in large print. And you can look at it prior to the service. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board outside the office.

THANKSGIVING is coming! – It's not too early to think about helping with this project. The planning for the Turkey Boxes starts at the end of September. We need one or two people to head it up. It sounds like a huge job, but everything you need to know is organized into a timeline. You would work closely with Cheri Oakley, our Parish Coordinator and other volunteers. If you are at all interested in chairing or helping, please talk to Cheri Oakley or Pastor Jason to find out more about it.

THERE ARE NEW PHOTOS in the Memorial Case in the hallway. See who you recognize!

THE NORWICH COMMUNITY VACATION BIBLE CAMP (formerly known as Vacation Bible School) will be held at the Christ Lutheran Church Sunday, July 23 through Wednesday, July 26 from 5:30 - 7:30pm. This year's theme is *Holy Ever After*. Fun, games and learning are planned. Dinner provided. For more information or to volunteer, talk to Pastor Jason.

NEW DEVOTIONAL BOOKS - *These Days* and *The Upper Room*, starting in July are available on the table outside the church office. Please feel free to take one.

CHURCH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS begin July 3 and continue through August 25. The office will be open Monday through Thursday, 8:00am to 12:00pm.

BINGOcize is a health promotion program that combines BINGO with fall prevention exercises (standing or sitting). The program will run Mon & Wed from 10-11 am at Guernsey Library. Please see our bulletin board for more information.

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, JUNE 25

9:00am Nursery, upstairs
10:00am Worship, Nave
11:00am Coffee Hour
6:00pm LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom

MONDAY, JUNE 26

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom
10:00am UCC Knitting Group, kitchen
3:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Room
6:30pm Town & Country Garden Club, Founders Room

TUESDAY, JUNE 27

1:00pm Piecemakers, Kitchen
1:00pm Nave in use for recording.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom
11:00am Free hotdog lunch at Emmanul Espiscopal Church

FRIDAY, JUNE 29

34th General Synod of the UCC begins today.
10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom

SUNDAY, JULY 2

9:00am Nursery, upstairs
10:00am Worship, Nave
11:00am Coffee Hour
6:00pm LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom

June 25, 2023

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor and Teacher: Rev. Jason Boyd

Liturgist: Ed Tucker

Director of Music Ministries: Mary Williams

Pianist: Colin Bussing

Director of Children and Youth Ministries: Ericka Tyler

Live Stream: Jennifer Mallozzi, Chris McSweeney

Sunday Sexton: Elspeth Hunter

Nursery: Fiora Breese

Usher: Jane Prime

Coffee Hour:

NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS - 7/2

Usher:

Liturgist:

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 HOURS

(Closed daily for lunch 12:00pm - 1:00pm)

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 8:00am - 3:00pm

Wednesday 9:00am - 4:00pm

Friday 8:00am - 12:00pm