



With many  
similar  
parables

**JESUS  
SPOKE  
THE  
WORD**

to them,  
as much as  
they could  
understand.

**MARK 4:33, NIV**

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



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



**An Open and Affirming Church**

**July 30, 2023**

**10:00 a.m**

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

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***PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD***

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**PRELUDE** *Adoration*

by Florence Price

**WELCOME**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***GATHERING***

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: What mysteries there are in God's world!

**ALL: We, so sophisticated, stand in awe at the wonders  
of the natural world.**

ONE: We look at the tiniest of seeds and wonder what will  
happen.

**ALL: From that small seed will grow a large shrub.**

ONE: Although we consider our gifts to be small and  
insignificant, God will use our gifts in miraculous  
ways.

**ALL: Praise the God of small seeds and mighty power.**

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\*Please stand in body or in spirit.

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

Prayer of Invocation – Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell

Call to Worship – Rev. Nancy Townley

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## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

### \*OPENING HYMN

*I Sing The Mighty Power of God*  
(Tune: ELLACOMBE)

#12

## TIME OF SHARING

### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

#### SPECIAL MUSIC *Spirit Song*

Words and music by John Wimber  
Michael Moren, soloist

### PASTORAL BLESSING OF PEACE

ONE: May the Peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: **And also with you.**

#### SUNG RESPONSE *Peace*

words and music 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**

Romans 8:26-39

Pew Bible NT p.165

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Pew Bible NT p. 15

**REFLECTION** *Losing the G*

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

#### **INTERLUDE**

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

Tune: TRENTHAM by Robert Jackson, 1894

#### **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** *Shall We Gather at the River* #597  
(Tune: HANSON PLACE)

## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* by Benton Price  
based on MILES LANE  
by William Shrubsole

## **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.

**SAVE THE DATE - August 26** Elizabeth Orleski of Drumzzone will be giving an African Jembe drum lesson at the Guernsey Library. Time to be determined. We are sponsoring this fun, musical experience for anyone who wants to participate.

**YOU STILL HAVE A CHANCE TO SEE THE WIZARD OF OZ -** today, July 30 at 2:00 p.m. Several members of our congregation are involved in this show. \$20 for adults, \$10 for children under 12 at the Martin W. Kappel Theater, 27 W. Main St., Norwich. Tickets available at <<https://norwichtheatercompany.org>>

**ATTENTION CHOIR:** There will be a rehearsal following the service today for the choir members who would like to participate in the virtual anthem project *Love Can Build a Bridge*.

**DEACON BOOK BOX - *Take a book, Leave a Buck*** (in the church office or front door mail slot). We have had to move the donation box for the Deacons Book Box. The books are still located on the library shelves in the Mayflower Room. There is a sign in the area of the shelves. Donations should now either be given to the church office, or put through the secure mail slot in the front door.

**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.

**WE'RE GOING TO PRIDE!** Our church is a sponsor of the first ever Chenango County Pride Festival, which will be held from 12:00pm to 6:00pm on August 26, 2023 at Boname Park in Oxford. We are listed on the sponsor materials, and we will have a booth at the event. Would you like to participate? Please leave your name on the sign-up sheet in the office, and more information will be provided to you when it becomes available.

**OUR KINDRED IN CHRIST AT BROAD STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** have invited us to volunteer to be part of

their monthly community meals which they serve to whomever needs them, free of charge. If you would like more information about participating, please leave your name on the sign up sheet in the 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 on our website.

## **CALENDAR**

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

### **SUNDAY, JULY 30**

9:00am Nursery, upstairs  
10:00am Worship, Nave  
11:00am Coffee Hour  
12:00pm Youth Group (grades 7-12), upstairs  
6:00pm LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom

### **MONDAY, JULY 31**

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom  
3:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Room

### **TUESDAY, AUGUST 1**

1:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Kitchen

### **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2**

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom  
11:00am Free hotdog lunch at Emmanuel Episcopal Church

### **FRIDAY, JULY 4**

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom

### **SUNDAY, AUGUST 6**

9:00am Nursery, upstairs  
10:00am Worship/Communion, Nave  
11:00am Coffee Hour  
12:00pm Youth Group (grades 7-12), upstairs  
6:00pm LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom

**July 30, 2023**

**TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:**

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

**Liturgist:** Ed Tucker

**Director of Music Ministries:** Mary Williams

**Soloist:** Michael Moren

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

**Sunday Sexton:** Elspeth Hunter

**Nursery:** Fiora Breese

**Coffee Hour:** Rose Laughlin

**NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS 8/6**

Usher:

Liturgist: Ericka Tyler

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

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**CHURCH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS**

Monday - Thursday

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.