



**“WHOEVER WANTS TO**

**BE MY DISCIPLE MUST**

**DENY THEMSELVES**

**AND TAKE UP THEIR**

**CROSS AND FOLLOW ME.”**

**MATTHEW 16:24, NIV**

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



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



**An Open and Affirming Church**

**September 3, 2023**

**10:00 a.m**

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Communion**

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***PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD***

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**PRELUDE** *Sing for Joy!*

Lani Smith

**WELCOME**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***GATHERING***

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: We come to worship this morning from different places.

**ALL: O God, do not be far from us.**

ONE: We come to worship this morning for different reasons.

**ALL: O God, do not be far from us.**

ONE: We experience the presence of the Spirit in different ways.

**ALL: O God, do not be far from us.**

ONE: We hear Jesus' words with different ears.

**ALL: O God, do not be far from us.**

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\*Please stand in body or in spirit.

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

Communion Liturgy by Rev. Michelle Torigian

Call to Worship by Joanna Harader

Prayer of Invocation by The Minor Keys

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ONE: "Deny yourselves."  
**ALL: O God, do not be far from us.**  
ONE: "Take up your cross."  
**ALL: O God, do not be far from us.**  
ONE: "Follow me."  
**ALL: O God, we thank you for drawing near to us in this place, in our lives.**  
ONE: Let us worship God.  
**ALL: Let us follow Christ.**

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**\*OPENING HYMN** *O Christ Jesus, Sent From Heaven* #47  
(Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY)

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

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

ONE: God be with you,  
**ALL: And also with you.**  
ONE: Open wide your hearts!  
**ALL: We open them up to God.**  
ONE: Let us give thanks for this time and space,  
**ALL: Giving praise to God for this meal we will share.**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

#### **UNISON PRAYER OF BLESSING**

**Holy One, we are surrounded by a world of hunger and hurt. We are surrounded by injustices, loneliness, illnesses, and hate. Yet through you, God, we know a different story. Our sacred story tells us of many times when our ancestors dined with the Divine. Our sacred story tells us of times when our ancestors dined with those who hungered. Our sacred story tells us that when sojourners listening to the teachings of Jesus became hungry. Our sacred story tells us the story of this meal on the night before Jesus died, and our sacred story tells us that two of the disciples were on their way to Emmaus and came upon a stranger on the journey. In a spirit of hospitality, they invited him to stay. As their new friend broke the bread, they were able to see Christ.**

**May our table likewise extend beyond this time and space: to food pantries, to community meals, to dinners shared with home-bound friends, and to coffee shared with friends who**

**grieve. When two or three are gathered, Jesus Christ is present. We bless the presence of Christ among us in this meal and in all your children. Amen.**

## **SHARING BREAD AND CUP**

### **UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**We celebrate our gratitude, Divine Companion. As this spiritual meal has nourished us, inspire us to feed our neighbors and journey with the lonely. Through our co-creation together, may we spread love throughout our world and extend your hospitality to people in need. Amen.**

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

## **CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Tango Eight*

by Jeremy Cohen

Allie Rehn, cello; Alyssa Jutting, violin

### **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 the song that we will sing.

Peace be the joy, our spirits ring.

Peace be the love that sets us free,

peace for all, peace for you and me.

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 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c  
Matthew 16:21-28

Pew Bible OT p. 615  
Pew Bible NT p. 18

**REFLECTION** *Following the Cross*

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

**INTERLUDE** *Jesus Paid it All*

Elvina M. Hall

#### **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**    *Before Your Cross, O Jesus*                      Insert  
(Tune: ST CHRISTOPHER)

### **BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**                      *Morning Has Broken*                      Neil Masey



### **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.

**WELCOME TO DAVID BURCH, our new organist** whose first Sunday with us is today.

**CALLING ALL SINGERS!** Choir will resume Wednesday evening rehearsals on September 6 at 7:00pm in the Nave. Participating in choir helps to build connections with each other, deepens our understanding of God's love for us, and helps us grow in our faith and discipleship. Oh...and did I mention? We love to have fun! We'd love to have YOU join us!

**COLORSCAPE CHENANGO** is next weekend in downtown Norwich. All day on Saturday, 9/9 10am to 6pm and Sunday 9/10 11am to 5pm. During the festival, our parking lot is reserved for handicapped parking. On Sunday morning you can access our parking lot from the West side of town, or park in the Hayes St. lot.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - CHENANGO COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY ANNUAL LAWN SALE** will be held Thursday 9/14 through Saturday 9/16 on Route 12 next to the Mirabito Gas Station in Oxford. To volunteer call Audrey Johnson at 607-843-6249 or e-mail at <seatweaving\_comics@yahoo.com.>

**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, SEPTEMBER 3**

9:00am Nursery, upstairs  
10:00am Worship/Communion, Nave

#### **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 - Labor Day**

##### **Church Office Closed**

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

#### **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5**

1:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Kitchen

#### **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6**

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom  
6:00 p.m. D. Burch, Nave  
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Nave

#### **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom

#### **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9**

8:00 am Colorscape Volunteers, Kitchen  
10:00am Colorscape Chenango, downtown Norwich

#### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10**

9:00am Nursery, upstairs  
10:00am Worship, Nave  
11:00am Coffee Hour  
11:00am Colorscape Chenango, downtown Norwich

September 3, 2023

**TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:**

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

**Liturgist:** Ericka Tyler

**Director of Music Ministries:** Mary Williams

**Organist:** David Burch

**Instrumentalists:** Allie Rehn, cello; Alyssa Jutting, violin

**Live Stream:** Chris McSweeney

**Sunday Sexton:** Elspeth Hunter

**Nursery:** Fiora Breese

**Usher:** Pat Whitmore

**NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS - 9/10**

Usher:

Liturgist: Elinor Beebe

Flowers:

Coffee Hour:

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST FIRST CONGREGATIONAL**

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607-334-3434 - [office@uccnorwichny.org](mailto:office@uccnorwichny.org) - [www.uccnorwichny.org](http://www.uccnorwichny.org)

**MINISTERS:** All the People

**PASTOR AND TEACHER:** Rev. Jason Boyd

**MODERATOR:** Pete Williams

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES:** Mary Williams

**ORGANIST:** David Burch

**DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES:** Ericka Tyler

**PARISH COORDINATOR:** Cheri Oakley

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANT:** Jennifer Mallozzi



**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

TEMPORARILY BY APPOINTMENT ONLY