



FOR WHERE TWO OR  
THREE ARE GATHERED  
IN MY NAME, I AM  
THERE AMONG THEM.

MATTHEW 18:20, NRSV

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



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



**An Open and Affirming Church**

**September 10, 2023**

**10:00 a.m**

**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

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***PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD***

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***GATHERING***

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: We gather here, where God would teach us:

**ALL: So we may learn to be more compassionate, so  
we may be taught how to be more loving.**

ONE: We gather here, where Jesus would teach us

**ALL: The wisdom to choose forgiveness over holding a  
grudge, the language of hope so we may speak to  
all.**

ONE: We gather here, where the Spirit imparts wisdom,

**ALL: So we might know how to share grace, so we  
would learn to welcome all God's children to the  
beloved community.**

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\*Please stand in body or in spirit.

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

Call to Worship by Rev. Thom Shuman

Prayer of Invocation by Rev. Susan A. Blain and Rev. Scott Ressman

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## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

### \*OPENING HYMN

*God Is Here! As We Your People Meet*  
(Tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH)

#70

## TIME OF SHARING

### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

### CHOIR ANTHEM

*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love*

Words by Tom Colvin, 1969, rev. 1994  
Music CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk song,  
adapted by Tom Colvin, 1969  
Arranged by Jane Marshall, 1982

### 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.

### 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**

Matthew 18:15-20

Pew Bible NT p. 20

Luke 10:38-42

Pew Bible NT p. 73

**REFLECTION** *Holy Communication*

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

#### **INTERLUDE**

#### **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**

*Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*  
(Tune: REGENT SQUARE)

#400

## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

## **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.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** for children in K-8th grades begins next Sunday, September 17. Children start out in the service, and then after the Children's Moment and the choir anthem, they head upstairs. For details, talk to Ericka Tyler, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries.

**THE SUSQUEHANNA ASSOCIATION** will hold it's annual Fall Meeting on Saturday, September 30 at the Homer Congregational Church from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Members of our church are always welcome to attend this meeting, and this year in particular you are invited to attend as our representative. (Normally our Vice Moderator attends on our behalf, however we do not currently have one.) Please consider this opportunity to represent our church and let the church office know if you plan to attend prior to September 25.

**THE KNITTING GROUP** will start again tomorrow, September 11. They will meet every other Monday, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the church kitchen. Anyone who enjoys needlework of any kind is welcome to come and bring a project. The group also makes shawls, scarves and socks for people who may need some prayer and encouragement. For more information, talk to Jane Prime or contact the church office at 607-334-3434.

**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.>

**SAVE THE DATE Blessing of the Pets Sunday - September 24.** You are invited to bring with you a picture of a beloved animal (living or departed), and/or a stuffed animal for blessing during the service. For those worshipping on Youtube, there will also be an opportunity for a virtual blessing of live pets at that time (Scarlett will be the stand-in in the Nave). After worship, weather permitting, you are invited to bring your beloved pets to the park across West Main St. from the church for an in-person blessing.

## **CALENDAR**

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

### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10**

9:00am Nursery, upstairs

10:00am Worship, Nave

11:00am Colorscape Chenango, downtown Norwich

### **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11**

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom

10:00am Knitting, kitchen

3:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Room

7:00pm Deacons Meeting, Zoom

### **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12**

1:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Kitchen

5:00pm Soup Kitchen, St. Bart's Parish Center.

### **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom

6:00pm D. Burch, Nave

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal, Nave

### **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

*Habitat Yard Sale, next to Mirabito, Route 12 in Oxford*

1:00pm Piecemakers monthly meeting, Founders' Rm.

### **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**

*Habitat Yard Sale, next to Mirabito, Route 12 in Oxford*

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom

### **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**

*Habitat Yard Sale, next to Mirabito, Route 12 in Oxford*

### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

9:00am Nursery, upstairs

10:00am Worship, Nave - Welcoming new members.

11:00am Coffee Hour

September 10, 2023

**TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:**

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

**Liturgist:** Elinor Beebe

**Director of Music Ministries:** Mary Williams

**Organist:** David Burch

**Live Stream:** Chris McSweeney

**Nursery:** Fiora Breese

**NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS - 9/17**

Usher:

Liturgist: Miranda Hunter

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

**ORGANIST:** David Burch

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

**PARISH COORDINATOR:** Cheri Oakley

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANT:** Jennifer Mallozzi

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**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Temporarily by appointment only.