



WORLD  
COMMUNION  
SUNDAY

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



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



**An Open and Affirming Church**

**October 1, 2023**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
World Communion Sunday**

---

***PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD***

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**PRELUDE**

*Athru on In Christ Alone for String Quartet*

By Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend

Arranged by Lila Crosswhite

Alyssa Jutting, Sophia Zheng, violins

Laci Zieno, viola

Allie Rehn, Delilah Spiegel, cellos

**WELCOME**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***GATHERING***

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**ONE:** Gathering God, joined as one in You we come to worship  
you today,

**ALL:** **Mindful of the breathing of the life that you have called  
into being across countries and climates; all creatures  
and all creeds.**

---

\*Please stand in body or in spirit.

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

Communion Liturgy by Beth Quick

Call to Worship by Rev. Jennie Gordon, Uniting Church of Australia

Prayer of Invocation by Abi Carlisle Wilke

Permission to reprint, podcast, and / or stream the music in this service obtained  
from ONE LICENSE with license #735996-A. All rights reserved.

ONE: Jesus, teacher, friend, today you call us to your table and invite us to feast with you,

**ALL: So that we might then feed others. Let our hunger for justice and our desire for peace never be exhausted until all your children are safe and fed.**

ONE: Life-giving Holy Spirit, let the words that reach our open ears and your movement in our souls in this time together bless, comfort and disturb us.

**ALL: So that the work of your servants here may be directed along the right paths for the sake of the world.**

ONE: And let all God's people say:

**ALL: Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**\*OPENING HYMN** *We Are Your People*  
(Tune: WHITFIELD)

#309

## **SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER SUNG LITURGY FOR WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**

*For World Communion Sunday, we will sing our story together in the liturgy, "For the Beauty of the Earth: A Sung Communion Liturgy for World Communion Sunday," by Beth Quick. All congregational portions are sung, to the tune of the hymn "For the Beauty of the Earth" (found at #28 in your pew hymnal). Pastor Jason will say a few words at each portion, and then invite the congregation to sing.*

## **WE COME TO THE TABLE, ONE WORLD, ONE BODY OF CHRIST**

**ALL:** Gather, friends, from far and near.  
Gather, friends - you're welcome here.  
Come to table, join the meal.  
God invites us, everyone.  
Sing together, voices raise to our God this song of praise.

Lift your hearts up to the Lord!  
God, we lift our hearts to You.  
Give to God your thanks and praise.  
It is right to give our thanks.  
Sing together, voices raise to our God this song of praise.

## **WORDS ON WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**

**ALL:** God, You made us out of love,  
Each one different, yet like You.  
We're one people, all the earth,  
Many nations, many-hued.  
Sing together, everyone! Tell the world what God has done!

Though we're one, we've built up walls,  
Nurtured fears and pain and strife,  
In our anger, turned away  
From the gift of God-breathed life.  
Holy God, we turn to You. We repent and start anew.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**ALL:** So you sent your holy child,  
Come to share Your reign on earth  
Breaking all our barriers down  
Teaching us our sacred worth  
Jesus Christ, God's gift of grace!  
At the meal we take our place.

Jesus shared a meal with friends  
Took and blessed and shared the bread  
"This, my life, I give to you  
Remember when you eat again"  
We remember, we give thanks,  
for the meal of love and grace.

Jesus took a cup of wine.  
Shared with friends fruit of the vine.  
In this cup forgiveness find,  
Gift of mercy, gift divine.  
We remember, we give thanks,  
for the meal of love and grace.

## **UNISON PRAYER OF BLESSING**

**ALL:** Pour on us your Holy Breath.  
Pour your Spirit on these gifts.  
Make them into Christ for us.  
Make us Christ for the whole world.  
God of all, to You we raise  
this our song of grateful praise.

## **SHARING BREAD AND CUP**

### **UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**ALL:** God who shared this joyful feast,  
Of whose love we are assured.  
Help us set the table wide.  
Everywhere throughout Your world.  
God we give You praise again.  
In Christ's name, Amen, Amen.

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

### **CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

*(Children are invited to stay in the front pew until after the anthem)*

### **CHOIR ANTHEM**

*How Beautiful*

Words and music by Twila Paris  
Choral setting by Lloyd Larson

*(Children in K-8 are excused to go upstairs for Sunday School at this time.)*

### **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 78:1-4, 12-16

Pew Bible NT p. 594

Matthew 21: 23-32

Pew Bible NT p. 24

**REFLECTION** *Hooting About Hunger*

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**INTERLUDE** *Dexter's Tune*

By Randy Newman  
Scored by Laci Olah

**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** (from the New Zealand Prayer Book)

**Eternal Spirit; Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, source of  
all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all.  
Loving God, in whom is heaven. The hallowing of your name  
echoes through the universe!**

**The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the  
earth! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your  
commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and  
come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we  
absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation  
and test, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and  
forever. Amen.**

## **COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

### **\*CLOSING HYMN**

*For The Healing of the Nations*  
(Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY)

#576

October 1, 2023

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *March in C*

by Franz Joseph Haydn

*The flowers are given  
for Happy Anniversaries.*

**TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:**

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

**Liturgist:** Ed Tucker

**Director of Music Ministries:** Mary Williams

**Organist:** David Burch

**String Quartet:** Alyssa Jutting, Sophia Zheng, violins;  
Laci Zieno, viola; Allie Rehn, Delilah Spiegel, cellos

**Director of Children and Youth Ministries:** Ericka Tyler

**Live Stream:** Chris McSweeney

**Sunday Sexton:** Mya Yantz

**Nursery:** Fiora Breese

**Usher:** Jane Prime

**Fellowship Hour:** Pat Burke

**NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS - 10/8**

Usher:

Liturgists: Bob Oehme, Donna Moren

Flowers:

Fellowship 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**

Temporarily by appointment only





## **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 from Norwich from after worship on October 1 through October 16. During that time, emergency pastoral care will be available from Rev. Mary Rublee of Broad Street United Methodist Church at 607-371-5077, and Rev. Laura Wade of Christ Lutheran Church (except 10/6-10/9) at 607-227-1901.

**THE NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING is collected today.** Envelopes are in the bulletin and on the table outside the office.

**MONDAY EVENING MUSICAL CLUB** invites you to a concert by the Norwich City Band on Monday, October 2 at 7:00 p.m. in our Nave. This is a free event - free-will donations are collected to fund their music scholarship program.

Livestream: <https://www.facebook.com/Mondayeveningmusicclub>  
PayPal: memcscholarship@gmail.com

**SEEKING SINGERS FOR ADVENT CANTATA** - Rehearsals for our Advent Cantata, *Peace* by Joel Raney will begin on Sunday October 29th. Singer registration will be held later this month and participants from area churches and the Norwich community are encouraged to join us. The performance will be held Sunday afternoon December 17<sup>th</sup>.

**LET'S TALK RACE** - Broad Street United Methodist Church, Christ Lutheran Church, and the United Church of Christ First Congregational of Norwich invite you to join us for "**Let's Talk Race**," an amazing seven-week journey where we create brave space and speak truthfully about racism in our nation. "Let's Talk Race" will take place on seven "almost consecutive" Tuesdays from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in the Founders Room at the United Church of Christ, located at 11 West Main Street in downtown Norwich. **The dates are as follows: October 17 & 24, November 7, 14, & 28, December 5 & 12.** Presenting and facilitating the program is Rev. Gary Smith, Founding Director of the Center for Racial Justice and Racial Justice Consultant for the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ.

**THE PLACE WILL BE OFFERING A FREE AMERICAN RED CROSS BABYSITTER TRAINING** course for youth aged 11 - 16 on November 4<sup>th</sup> (8:30am-5pm). This class is FREE to Chenango County youth through the generous contribution of an anonymous donor. The goal of this course is to provide youth who are planning to babysit with the knowledge and skills necessary to safely and responsibly give care for children and infants. This training will help participants to develop leadership skills, learn how to develop a babysitting business, and learn about basic childcare and basic first aid. For additional information or to preregister, please contact The Place at 607-336-9696.

**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, OCTOBER 1**

- 9:00am Nursery, upstairs
- 10:00am Worship, Nave - Communion  
*Neighbors in Need Offering*  
Sunday School for K-8 - after the Children's Moment
- 11:00am Fellowship Hour, Founders Room
- 11:30am Handbell Choir rehearsal, upstairs

### **MONDAY, OCTOBER 2**

- 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom
- 3:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Room
- 7:00pm MEMC/Norwich City Band, Nave  
See announcements for details.

### **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3**

- 1:00pm Piecemakers, Kitchen
- 5:00pm Soup Kitchen, St. Bart's Parish Center.

### **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4**

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

### **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6**

- 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom

### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7**

- 4:00pm Free 2B Me Youth Group for grades 5-12, upstairs

### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8**

- 9:00am Nursery, upstairs
- 10:00am Worship, Nave  
Sunday School for K-8 - after the Children's Moment
- 11:00am Fellowship Hour, Founders Room
- 11:30am Handbell Choir Rehearsal, upstairs