



**LET THEM PRAISE
YOUR GREAT AND
AWESOME NAME!**

PSALM 99:3

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



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



An Open and Affirming Church

October 22, 2023

10:00 a.m

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *He Sent His Son*

by Marsha Sisco

WELCOME

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: The earth has its powerful, but God is Creator of all.

ALL: Praise God above all, the giver of life!

ONE: The mountains may tremble, the oceans may roar,

ALL: But God's presence is more powerful than the earth itself.

ONE: Come into God's presence, for God is among us now.

ALL: O God, show us your glory; we seek your ways.

ONE: Come to the Rock, the God of life, for God is present now.

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

Call to Worship by Mary J. Scifres

Prayer of Invocation by A. Osdieck

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PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*OPENING HYMN

To You, O God, All Creatures Sing
(Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN)

#17 (v. 1-4)

TIME OF SHARING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

(Children are welcome to stay in the front pew until after the special music.)

SPECIAL MUSIC

Sweet By and By with Shall We Gather At the River

David Burch, piano

by Sanford F. Bennett
and Joseph P. Webster

(Children in K-8 grade are invited 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 99

Pew Bible OT p. 610

Matthew 22:15-22

Pew Bible NT p. 25

REFLECTION *Caesar's Word Salad*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INTERLUDE *Oh, May My Soul*

by Marsha Sisco

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, Whose Giving Knows No Ending #565
(Tune: AUSTRIAN HYMN)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Postlude on "Salvation"* by Franklin Ritter

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.

OUR PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY to Vicki Gray and family for the loss of Gary Gray, who died on October 16, 2023.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed on Thursday and Friday this week.

THE ANNUAL INFORMATIONAL BUDGET MEETING will be held on Sunday, October 29th after the worship service.

SEEKING SINGERS FOR ADVENT CANTATA - Rehearsals for our Advent Cantata, *Peace* by Joel Raney will begin on Sunday, October 29. You can register by going to our website and clicking the link on the homepage. Participants from area churches and the Norwich community are encouraged to join us. The performance will be held Sunday afternoon December 17th.

FREE 2B ME YOUTH GROUP - Saturdays, 4:00 - 6:00 pm - a non-structured, safe space for students in 5th through 12th grades to simply come relax, listen to music, play games, socialize with peers, have some snacks, and most importantly, feel free to be who God made them to be! If you know of someone who may be interested, let them know about this great opportunity for fellowship! The group will meet most Saturdays from 4-6 pm in the Youth Room.

LET'S TALK RACE - continues on Tuesday, October 24 at 6:30 p.m. in the Founders' Room. Join us on this journey where we create brave space and speak truthfully about racism in our nation. The remaining dates are: October 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.

FAMILY FUN - November 5 12:00 noon - The Christ Lutheran Church invites you to their community *Sunday School November Celebration*. For all ages (0 -109). Join us for lunch, learning, a service activity, and a fun community based activity. This month we will have a lesson on prayer, create prayer cards for Thanksgiving Boxes and visit Wolf Mountain. RSVP/questions to Elly Powers at ellypow@gmail.com

CALENDAR

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom
10:00am Knitting, Kitchen
3:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Room
6:30pm Garden Club, Founders Room

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24

1:00pm Piecemakers, Kitchen
5:00pm Soup Kitchen, St. Bart's Parish Center
6:30pm *Let's Talk Race*, Founders Room. See announcements.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

Church Office Closed

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

Church Office Closed

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

11:00am Diaper Giveaway, First Baptist Church
4:00pm Free 2B Me Youth Group for grades 5-12, upstairs

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

9:00am Nursery, upstairs
10:00am Worship, Nave
Sunday School for K-8 - after the Children's Moment
11:00am Budget Meeting, Founders Room
Fellowship Hour, Founders Room
11:30am Handbell Choir, upstairs
3:00pm Christmas Cantata Rehearsal, Nave

October 22, 2023

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor and Teacher: Rev. Jason Boyd

Liturgist: Elinor Beebe

Organist: David Burch

Director of Children and Youth Ministries: Ericka Tyler

Live Stream: Chris McSweeney, Jessica Strough, Liam Hunter

Sunday Sexton: Mya Yantz

Nursery: Fiora Breese

Fellowship Hour: Pat Burke

NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS - 10/29

Usher:

Liturgist:

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.

