



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR
AS YOURSELF.

MATTHEW 22:39

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



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



An Open and Affirming Church

October 29, 2023

10:00 a.m

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

The Way of the Cross Leads Home

by Charles H. Gabriel

WELCOME

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

LITURGIST:

ONE: Let us start this service well, by reminding ourselves:
That it is not we who chose Christ,

ALL: But Christ who chose us,

ONE: That we are not here because of our goodness

ALL: But because of Christ's grace,

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

Call to Worship by Bruce Prewer
Prayer of Invocation by Katie Cook

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

ONE: That we are not here to enlighten ourselves,
ALL: But to allow Christ to enlighten us,
ONE: That we have not come to be entertained
ALL: But to worship God with heart, soul, mind and strength.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

***OPENING HYMN**

I Woke Up This Morning #85
(Tune: WOKE UP THIS MORNING)

TIME OF SHARING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

(Children are welcome to stay in the front pew until after the Choir Anthem.)

CHOIR ANTHEM

Guide My Feet, Lord Traditional Spiritual
Setting by John Carter

(Children in grades K–8 are invited 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 43

Pew Bible NT p. 569

Matthew 22:34-46

Pew Bible NT p. 25

REFLECTION *Love Will Keep Us Together*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INTERLUDE

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

by Paul Taylor

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

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

#454

(Tune: I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *On Jordan's Stormy Banks* by Lani Smith

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THERE IS NO NURSERY CARE TODAY. Your children are always welcome in the service.

THE ANNUAL INFORMATIONAL BUDGET MEETING is today after the worship service in the Founders room. The Trustees will present the preliminary budget for 2024.

THANKSGIVING PROJECT - We need your help. We did not have a chairperson to order the food and organize the process this year, so our church will be giving out gift cards to 100 families. We still need your help to make this happen. Donations are welcome to help cover the cost. Cash or checks made out to "UCC Norwich" with *Thanksgiving* in the memo can be put in the offering plate or dropped in the secure mail slot on the front door. We also need volunteers to give out the gift cards. If you are interested in helping with that, please contact Cheri Oakley, Parish Coordinator. Details on dates and times will be available soon.

LET'S TALK RACE will not meet this week. We will gather again on November 7 at 6:30pm in the Founders Room. The remaining dates are: 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 29

- 9:00am No Nursery today - your children are always welcome in the service.
- 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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30

- 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom
- 3:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Room
- 7:00pm Executive Council Meeting, Founders Room

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1 - All Saints Day

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

- 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Turn your clocks back one hour tonight.

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

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



**Daylight Savings Time
ends November 5**

Turn your clock back one hour Saturday night

October 29, 2023

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor and Teacher: Rev. Jason Boyd

Liturgist: Bob Oehme

Director of Music Ministries: Mary Williams

Organist: David Burch

Director of Children and Youth Ministries: Ericka Tyler

Live Stream: Chris McSweeney, Jessica Strough, Liam Hunter

Sunday Sexton: Mya Yantz

Nursery: No Nursery this week.

Fellowship Hour: Pat Burke

NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS - 11/5

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.

