

**“I tell you the truth, whatever
you did for one of the least of these**



**brothers and sisters of mine,
you did for me.”**

Matthew 25:40

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



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



An Open and Affirming Church

November 26, 2023

10:00 a.m

**Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Reign of Christ Sunday**

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *As the Deer*

by Martin Nystrom

WELCOME

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Christ Jesus, friend of the poor, the meek and the merciful, has been enthroned above all authority and power in this world and in the world that is to come.

ALL: **Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth, serve the Lord with gladness come into his presence with singing.**

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

Call to Worship by Rev. Bruce Prewer
Prayer of Invocation by Roddy Hamilton

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ONE: God has placed everything under Christ's wounded feet, appointed the one who wore a crown of thorns as the supreme head of the church, his body.

ALL: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, come into his courts with praise. Give thanks and praise his loving name!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Pastor)

***OPENING HYMN** *Whatever You Do* Insert
(Tune: ST. DENIO)

TIME OF SHARING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Children are welcome to stay in the front pew during the special music.

CHOIR ANTHEM *I Will Arise and Go to Jesus*
Based on the tune RESTORATION
Words by Joseph Hart and Robert Robinson
Arranged by Austin C. Lovelance

Children in K-8 grades 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 live in you in all you do.

Peace, peace, peace, peace. Peace live in you in all you do.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND GENEROSITY

DISCIPLESHIP PLEDGE (An Offertory Prayer) (Pastor)

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 100

Pew Bible NT p. 611

Matthew 25:31-46

Pew Bible NT p. 29

REFLECTION *The Least Of These*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INTERLUDE *Give Thanks*

by Henry Smith

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** *I Am the Light of the World* #584
(Tune: LIGHT OF THE WORLD)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *The Way of the Cross Leads Home*
by Charles H Gabriel

The flowers are from Norma Kinney
in honor of her sisters:
Paula, Laura, Donna, Linda, Debra

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NURSERY IS AVAILABLE for children up to age 5, upstairs at the front of the church.

SUNDAY SCHOOL for grades K-8 is held upstairs after the choir anthem.

CALL TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING TO VOTE ON THE 2024 BUDGET - DECEMBER 12 in the Founders' Room, following the worship service. Members of the church are encouraged to attend.

THE DEADLINE to submit items for the December newsletter is 8:00 a.m. on November 27.

ADVENT STUDY begins this week on Wednesday, 11/29 and continues on Wednesdays through 12/20. We will meet at the Broad St. United Methodist Church for soup at 11:30 a.m. and study from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. We will be reading *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*, by biblical scholar Adam Hamilton as he examines the names of Christ used by the gospel writers. Books are provided and are available in the church office.

CALENDAR

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

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. Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal, upstairs
3:00pm Christmas Cantata Rehearsal, Nave

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

6:10pm Democratic Committee, Founders Room

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

11:00am Norwich Theater Company meeting, Mayflower Room
4:00pm Free 2B Me Youth Group for grades 5-12, upstairs

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 - First Sunday of Advent

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

November 26, 2023

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor and Teacher: Rev. Jason Boyd

Liturgist: Michael Moren

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: Fiora Breese

Fellowship Hour: Pat Burke

NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS - 12/3

Usher:

Liturgist: Michael Moren, Ed Tucker

Flowers: Weiseman

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

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES: Ericka Tyler

PARISH COORDINATOR: Cheri Oakley

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT: Jennifer Mallozzi

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Temporarily by appointment only.

