

# Hope



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



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



**An Open and Affirming Church**

**December 3, 2023**

**10:00 a.m**

**First Sunday of Advent  
Communion**

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***PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD***

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**PRELUDE** *Pastorale on "Venite Adoremus"*

by Edward W. Beals

**WELCOME**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***GATHERING***

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**ONE:** As stars to the maker,

**ALL:** We are the work of God's hands.

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\*Please stand in body or in spirit.

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

Communion Liturgy by Moira Laidlaw

Prayer after Communion by Liturgies Alive, Models of Celebration

Call to Worship and Prayer of Invocation by Ruth Burgess

Advent Candle Liturgy by Susan Blain, United Church of Christ, and Alydia Smith, The United Church of Canada © 2021 The United Church of Canada and United Church of Christ. Licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial No Derivatives (by-nc-nd) Licence.

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Affirmation for Advent "Darkness and Light" by Cathy Booker

Advent Prayer for Generosity by Joanna Harader

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ONE: As plants to the gardener,  
**ALL: We are the work of God's hands.**  
ONE: As clay to the potter,  
**ALL: We are the work of God's hands.**  
ONE: Be brave, be honest,  
**ALL: Be awake to integrity**  
ONE: Be strong, be gentle,  
**ALL: Be awake to justice.**  
ONE: Be joyful, be humble,  
**ALL: Be awake to holiness.**  
ONE: Be steady, be hopeful,  
**ALL: Be awake to love.**

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

### **\*OPENING HYMN**

*Keep Awake, Be Always Ready*  
(Tune: WACHET AUF)

#112

## **LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE**

The Kolb/Danielyan Family

### **UNISON SUNG PRAYER**

(Tune: VENI EMMANUEL)

O come and be the hope in all our lives  
Though chaos and confusion still survive  
We know the path of hate all too well  
We need our God with us, Emmanuel!  
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to us  
And all things shall be well

## ***SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER***

### **WE COME TO THE TABLE**

ONE: We give you our thanks and praise, O God, creator of all things, visible and invisible.

**ALL: You revealed your glory in the wonders of your creation and in the way you lovingly formed people in your image and entrusted them with the ongoing task of revealing your glory in the world.**

ONE: When they failed and turned from your ways you did not abandon them but spoke tenderly to them through the prophets such as Isaiah.

**ALL:** You shaped the conviction in Isaiah's mind that the crushed and broken of the world were invited to shelter close to your heart and be comforted, like lambs by a shepherd; that the oppressed of the world would be liberated by your gracious and loving acts towards them

**ONE:** Did Isaiah catch a glimpse of a light penetrating every nook and cranny of the world until no more darkness was left?

**ALL:** A light which shaped itself into a star. A light which startled shepherds and led the wise to a child lying in the straw of a manger and warmed by the breath of wondering animals. The child in whom the light of your glory is eternally revealed. And so, with all the company of heaven and earth we praise your holy name saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he whose coming we await with joy. Hosanna in the highest.**

**ONE:** Blessed are you O God, and forever blessed are the people of this world since you chose to break into our history in the person of Jesus Christ.

**ALL:** He made your extravagant love so visible in and through all he said and did, especially on the night when he washed his disciples' feet and sat down at a table to share the meal with them.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **UNISON PRAYER OF BLESSING**

**Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, O God, and upon these gifts of bread and cup, that they may be for us the life of Christ and that we may make that life visible through serving as he served, comforting as he comforted, and loving as he loved. This we pray in his name. Amen**

## **SHARING BREAD AND CUP**

### **UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**Most Holy God, you fill the hungry with good things and send the self-satisfied away empty. In this meal you have filled us with the word and the bread of life of your Son Jesus Christ. Make us hunger now for his coming in the hearts and the**

homes of all. Fill us with his spirit of service and self-forgetting love, that through us, he may become near to people. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

### **TIME OF SHARING**

#### **CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

*Children are welcome to stay in the front pew until after the Special Music.*

#### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus*  
Handbell Choir

Tune: HYFRYDOL  
by Rowland H. Prichard  
arranged by Bill Ingram

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

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

#### **ADVENT PRAYER ON DISCIPLESHIP AND GENEROSITY**

ONE: Holy One, this Advent season we wait in hope.

**ALL: And we give in hope.**

ONE: Hope for your coming reign;

**ALL: Hope because of your presence with us even now.**

ONE: Receive our generous gifts,

**ALL: And use them for your work of healing and hope in our world. Amen.**

*Offering plates are located at both Nave doors  
for your convenience.*

## **WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Isaiah 64:1-9

Mark 13:24-37

Pew Bible OT p. 770

Pew Bible NT p. 51

**REFLECTION** *Keep Awake*

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

**INTERLUDE** *As with Gladness Men of Old* by Julie A. Lind

### **UNISON AFFIRMATION FOR ADVENT**

**We believe in God, robed in splendor, veiled in mystery, ruler alike of darkness and light.**

**We encounter God in Jesus Christ, who was tortured and put to death, but whose radiance could not be quenched; whose touch brings a blaze of color to a dull, drab world: reviving the weary, healing the wounded, dazzling the satisfied.**

**We walk with God, guided by the light of God's loving spirit, who enters the shadowed places of our hearts and leads us into truth and life.**

**We wait, and for the fulfillment of God's promises, for the time when the darkness will hold no fear and the light will no longer blind, but creation will be made whole once more and God's peace will reign forever. 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** *Open Wide Your Heavens!* Insert  
(Tune: CRANHAM)

## BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE** *He Is Exalted* by Twila Paris



## 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 special music.

**CALL TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING TO VOTE ON THE 2024 BUDGET - DECEMBER 10** in the Founders' Room, following the worship service. Members of the church are encouraged to attend. Copies of the budget are available at the back of the Nave or from the church office.

**ADVENT STUDY** 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.

**A MITTEN TREE** is now up in the Founders Room. Bring in new mittens, hats and scarves of all sizes to decorate the Mitten Tree in the Founders' Room. After Christmas we donate these items to Perry Browne School.

December 3, 2023

*The flower arrangement is in memory of  
Miriam H. Wieseman.*

**TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:**

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

**Liturgist:** Mary Williams

**Director of Music Ministries:** Mary Williams

**Organist:** David Burch

**Handbell Choir:** Lilit Danielyan, Hannah DeBates, Maxine Gage, Janet Johnson, Alyssa Jutting, John Kolb, Bob Oehme, Amy Rogers, Destinie (DJ) Smith, Ericka Tyler, Pete Williams. Mary Williams-Director

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

**Live Stream:** Chris McSweeney, Jennifer Strough, Liam Hunter

**Sunday Sexton:** Mya Yantz

**Nursery:** Fiora Breese

**Fellowship Hour:** Pat Burke

**NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS - 12/10**

Usher:

Liturgist: Bob Oehme

Flowers: Poinsettias

Coffee Hour:

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST FIRST CONGREGATIONAL**

11 West Main St., Norwich NY 13815

607-334-3434 - [office@uccnorwichny.org](mailto:office@uccnorwichny.org) - [www.uccnorwichny.org](http://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.







# Peace

## *A Christmas Celebration*

Composed & Arranged by Joel Raney

**Sunday, December 17, 2023**

**4:00 p.m.**

Mary Williams, Director of Music Ministries

David Burch, Accompanist

**IN-PERSON**

**United Church of Christ**

11 West Main Street, Norwich NY

**AND**

**LIVESTREAM**

**[www.uccnorwichnyorg/live-stream-2](http://www.uccnorwichnyorg/live-stream-2)**

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**



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CHURCH  
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607-334-3434

[www.uccnorwichny.org](http://www.uccnorwichny.org)



## **CALENDAR**

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

### **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

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 4**

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

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5**

- 9:00am AARP Tax Training, Founders Room
- 1:00pm Piecemakers, Kitchen
- 5:00pm Soup Kitchen, St. Bart's Parish Center
- 6:30pm Let's Talk Race, Founders' Room

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6**

- 9:00am AARP Tax Training, Founders Room
- 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom
- 11:30am Advent Book Study at Broad St. UMC.
- 6:00pm D. Burch, Nave
- 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal, Nave

### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8**

- 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9**

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

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 - Second Sunday of Advent**

- 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
- 3:00pm Christmas Cantata Rehearsal, Nave