

Joy



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



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



An Open and Affirming Church

December 17, 2023

10:00 a.m

Third Sunday of Advent

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

MISSION MOMENT – The Christmas Fund

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God has called us,

ALL: To Bring good news to the poor, to live with integrity.

ONE: God has called us,

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

Call to Worship and Prayer of Invocation by Ruth Burgess
Advent Candle Liturgy by Susan Blain, United Church of Christ, and Alydia Smith,
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commercial No Derivatives (by-nc-nd) Licence. To view a copy of this licence, visit
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.5/ca>. Affirmation for Advent by
Cathy Booker

Advent Prayer for Generosity by Joanna Harader

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ALL: To heal the broken-hearted, to bring justice to the hungry.

ONE: God has called us,

ALL: To hold on to what is good, to avoid every form of evil.

ONE: The Spirit of God is in us.

ALL: We are people of God.

ONE: Be happy, be holy,

ALL: Rejoice in God.

ONE: Be brave, be justice,

ALL: Rejoice in God.

ONE: Be merciful, walk wisely,

ALL: Rejoice in God.

ONE: Be good, avoid evil,

ALL: Rejoice in God.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

***OPENING HYMN** *O Loving Founder of the Stars* #111
(Tune: CONDITOR ALME L.M.)

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF JOY

Miranda Hunter and Elspeth Hunter

UNISON SUNG PRAYER

(Tune: VENI EMMANUEL)

O come to us like joy of heaven's dawn,
From Mary's womb a faithful paragon
Brought forth into this world by love's power
Your Spirit through her labors in that hour
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to us
And all things shall be well

TIME OF SHARING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

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

SPECIAL MUSIC *Patapan* by Bernard de La Monnoye
arranged by Linda R. Lamb, ASCAP

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 joy.

ALL: And we give with joy.

ONE: Joy for all you have given us;

ALL: Joy because of your sacred promises.

ONE: Receive these generous offerings,

ALL: And use them to spread your joy in our world. Amen.

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

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Pew Bible NT p. 767

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Pew Bible NT p. 94

REFLECTION *Special Delivery*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INTERLUDE

Psalm 42 #1 (Chorale)

by Alfred Fedak

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

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You
(Tune: HYMN TO JOY)

#4

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Noel Provencal*

by P. Candelle

Poinsettias

In memory of **Virginia Chaplin** from Pat Sternberg

In memory of their parents **Carroll and Shirley Edwards**
from Francis, Mark, Janet and Arlene

In memory of **Stacy Gage, Amy Gage and
Helene and Warren Granz**
from Maxine Gage

In memory of **Roslyn and Frank McAleish** from Karen Mallozzi

In memory of **Amanda B. Sternberg** from Pat Sternberg

In memory of **Paul J. Sternberg** from Pat Sternberg

In memory of **Ruth Lena Tucker**, wife of 50 years, from Ed Tucker.

In memory of **John Wassenaar, Bill and Catherine Johnson**
from Jeff and Janet Johnson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

TODAY at 4:00 p.m - Christmas Cantata, *Peace*, by Joel Raney in the Nave or watch on the livestream www.uccnorwichny.org/live-stream-2.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED 12/20 - 1/1. The phone and email will not be checked during this time. For pastoral needs, please contact Pastor Jason directly.

THERE IS NO SUNDAY SCHOOL next Sunday morning, 12/24 or Sunday 12/31. We will resume on January 6th.

POTLUCK MEAL after church on January 7 in honor of Pastor Jason. Please sign up in the church office to bring your favorite dish. The Deacons will supply drinks and table service.

SAVE THE DATE - Sunday January 6 at 10:00 a.m. we will take down the Christmas decorations. The Deacons would love to have your help.

IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR where the weather can make travel difficult. Please don't take any risks to get to church on a Sunday morning, especially since you can tune in to the livestream. If we cancel church all together, we will post on Facebook and Instagram, and also with a message on the church phone (607-334-3434).

CALENDAR

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 - Third Sunday of Advent

- 9:00am Nursery, upstairs
- 10:00am Worship, Nave
Sunday School for grades 3-8 - after the Children's Moment
- 11:00am Fellowship Hour, Founders Room
- 4:00 p.m. Christmas Cantata, "Peace", Nave. Free and open to the public.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

- 9:00am AARP Training, Founders Room
- 1:00pm Piecemakers, Kitchen
- 5:00pm Soup Kitchen, St. Bart's Parish Center
- 7:00pm By-laws meeting, Founders Room

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

- 9:00am AARP Tax Training, Founders Room
- 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom
- 11:30am Advent Book Study at Broad St. UMC.
- 4:00pm Laundry Love at Byrne Dairy
- 6:00pm D. Burch, Nave
- 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal, Nave

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

- 5:00pm Free dinner at Emmanuel Episcopal Church
- 6:00pm Helping Hands Give-away at the YMCA
- 7:00pm Blue Christmas Service at Broad St. UMC

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

- 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 - 4th Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve

- 9:00am Nursery, upstairs
- 10:00am Worship, Nave
- 11:00am Fellowship Hour, Founders Room
- 5:00pm Christmas Eve Service, Nave. Nursery available.

December 17, 2023



For many, Christmas is a difficult time of year. Amidst the joy and celebration going on around us, many of us feel grief, loss, and other challenges. Our community Blue Christmas worship will be a space for all God's children to feel God's love and presence even in difficult

moments: contemplative, quiet, and a time for you to just be.
7:00pm on Thursday, December 21 at Broad Street United Methodist Church: 74 North Broad St., Norwich

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor and Teacher: Rev. Jason Boyd

Liturgist: Elinor Beebe

Director of Music Ministries: Mary Williams

Organist: David Burch

Handbell Ringers: Megan Carpenter, Lilit Danielyan, Hannah DeBates, Maxine Gage, Alyssa Jutting, John Kolb, Michael Moren, 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

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.

