

# Love



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



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



**An Open and Affirming Church**

**December 24, 2023**

**10:00 a.m**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

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***PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD***

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**PRELUDE** *Noel*

by William Godger

**WELCOME**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***GATHERING***

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: An ancient promise is coming true.

**ALL: God's love lasts forever.**

ONE: A secret mystery is being revealed.

**ALL: God's love lasts forever.**

ONE: A little child will soon be born.

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\*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: God's love lasts forever.**

ONE: God of promise, God of wisdom,

**ALL: We will wait with You.**

ONE: God of justice, God of integrity,

**ALL: We will wait with You.**

ONE: God of mystery, God of glory,

**ALL: We will wait with You.**

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

### **\*OPENING HYMN**

*My Heart Sings out in Joyful Praise*

#106

(Tune: MARIAS LOVESÅNG C.M.D.)

## **LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE**

Ericka and Josiah Tyler

## **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

## ***TIME OF SHARING***

## **CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

*Children are welcome to stay in the front pew during the choir anthem.*

## **CHOIR ANTHEM**

*Bring Us Heavenly Peace*

from the Christmas Cantata, *Peace*

words and music by Joel Raney

## **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 peace.

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

ONE: A peace deeper than our anxiety and fear.

**ALL: A peace growing from our trust in your loving  
power.**

ONE: Receive these generous offerings,

**ALL: And use them to bring peace to our world. Amen.**

*An envelope for The Christmas Fund offering is in the bulletin.  
Offering plates are located at both Nave doors  
for your convenience.*

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

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 1

Pew Bible NT p. 57

**REFLECTION** *The Mother of Advent*

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

**INTERLUDE** *Pastorale*

by Robert Schaab

## **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** *Angel Gabriel Went to Galilee* Insert  
(Tune: LEANING)

### **BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *Noel Angevin*

by Cesar Franck

# 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.

**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 OR YOUTH GROUP** next weekend.

**TODAY** we are collecting for **THE CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING.** An insert and envelope are in the bulletin.

**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.

**TAKING DOWN THE DECORATIONS** - 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).

**THE NEXT NEWSLETTER** will be mailed toward the middle of January and will cover January and February. Deadline for articles is January 8.



## **CALENDAR**

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

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24**

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve**

9:00am Nursery, upstairs

10:00am Worship, Nave

5:00pm Christmas Eve Service, Nave. Nursery available.

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 - Christmas Day**

**Merry Christmas!**

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26**

9:00am AARP Training, Founders Room

1:00pm Piecemakers, Kitchen

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27**

9:00am AARP Tax Training, Founders Room

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom

### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28**

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom

**December 24, 2023**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30**

9:00am Fourth Saturday diaper give-away at First Baptist Church.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 - New Year's Eve**

9:00am Nursery, upstairs

10:00am Worship, Nave

11:00am Fellowship Hour, Founders Room



**TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:**

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

**Liturgist:** Ericka Tyler

**Candle Liturgy:** Ericka and Josiah Tyler

**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:** No fellowship hour today

**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.

