



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



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



An Open and Affirming Church

December 31, 2023

10:00 a.m

First Sunday of Christmas

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

Pastorale on Advent Themes

by Randolph Currie

WELCOME

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Let all of Creation

ALL: Praise God.

ONE: Let the mountains and all hills, fruit trees, and all cedars

ALL: Praise God.

ONE: Let the wild animals and all cattle, creeping things, and flying birds

ALL: Praise God.

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

Call to Worship by Seasons of the Spirit
Prayer of Invocation by Rev. Mark Suriano
Affirmation for Christmas by Christian Aid UK
Prayer for Generosity by Joanna Harader

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ONE: Let all Kings, Queens, and Rulers, Prime Ministers,
Presidents, and Governors

ALL: Praise God.

ONE: Let people of every age and every status

ALL: Praise God.

ONE: Let all the heavens, sun and moon, shining stars, and
sparkling seas

ALL: Praise God.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

***OPENING HYMN**

Good Christian Friends Rejoice
(Tune: IN DULCI JUBILO)

#129

TIME OF SHARING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Arranged by Julie A. Lind

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.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER ON DISCIPLESHIP AND GENEROSITY

ONE: More than all the gifts we offer,

ALL: More than the time we give.

ONE: More than the talent we share,

ALL: More than the gift of peace.

ONE: More than the most moving music,

ALL: More than the work for justice.

ONE: More than the happiest reunion,

ALL: More than the hope of good health is God's gift of a little child at Christmas. Thank you, Loving God. Amen

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

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 148

Pew Bible OT p.645

Luke 2:22-40

Pew Bible NT p. 60

REFLECTION *Called to be God's Lightbeams*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INTERLUDE *Elevation*

by Jacques-Louis Battman

UNISON AFFIRMATION FOR CHRISTMAS

Let the love that shaped earth and heaven dwell within us this Christmas.

Let the love that created humanity dwell within us this Christmas.

Let the love that overcomes suffering and hatred dwell within us this Christmas. Let the love that causes us to rejoice with loved ones dwell within us this Christmas.

Let the love that forgives and renews dwell within us this Christmas.

Let the love that brings reconciliation after separation dwell within us this Christmas.

Let the love that brings the blessing of peace dwell within us this Christmas.

And may we share that peace now and beyond Christmas, with all people near and far. 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**

Go Tell It On The Mountain

154

(Tune: African-American Spiritual)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Vom Himmel hock, da komm ich her

by Fredrich Wilhelm Zachau

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.

NEXT SATURDAY, JANUARY 6 AT 10:00 A.M. we will take down the Christmas decorations. The Deacons would love to have your help.

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.

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 31 - First Sunday after Christmas New Year's Eve

9:00am Nursery, upstairs
10:00am Worship, Nave
11:00am Fellowship Hour, Founders Room

MONDAY, JANUARY 1 - New Year's Day

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

9:00am AARP Training, Founders Room
1:00pm Piecemakers, Kitchen

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

9:00am AARP Tax Training, Founders Room
10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal, Nave

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

10:00am Take down the decorations, Nave - All are welcome.
4:00pm Youth Group, upstairs

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

9:00am Nursery, upstairs
10:00am Worship, Nave
Sunday School grades 3-8
11:00am Pot Luck Lunch, Founders Room

December 31, 2023

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor and Teacher: Rev. Jason Boyd

Liturgist: Ed Tucker

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

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.

