



ARISE,
SHINE,
FOR YOUR
LIGHT
HAS COME

I S A I A H 6 0 : 1

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



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



An Open and Affirming Church

January 7, 2024

10:00 a.m

**Epiphany Observed
Communion**

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

Fugue on "Truro"

by Edward W. Beals

WELCOME

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:

ALL: The Magi who study the heavens follow a guiding star!

ONE: O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:

ALL: The peoples who live in the shadows see a glorious light!

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

Call to Worship from The Visit of the Magi—Epiphany Sunday, on The Calvin Institute of Christian Worship

Prayer of Invocation by Suzanne Fageol

Communion Liturgy by Rev. Michelle Torigian

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ONE: O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:

ALL: The Christ who embodies the Word unveils the hidden plan, making us joint heirs of the promise of salvation through the gospel!

ONE: O come, let us worship the Lord,

ALL: For God has done wondrous things!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

***OPENING HYMN** *Arise, Your Light Is Come*
(Tune: FESTAL SONG)

#164

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

WE COME TO THE TABLE

ONE: Here at this table and in this sanctuary, let the Divine Spark enter our lives.

ALL: Let the Holy Light aid us in seeing the Christ in our midst.

ONE: The Brightness of Jesus the Christ will illuminate our way.

ALL: The Radiance of the Christ will warm our hearts.

ONE: God is shining upon you!

ALL: And God's light streams upon you!

ONE: Open your hearts.

ALL: We open them to the brilliance of God.

ONE: Let us give thanks for the light and love of God.

ALL: We praise our Creator with joy and thanksgiving.

ONE: We enter this space eager to experience the presence of the Christ. Notice the Christ in the cries of the children. Spot the Christ your neighbor's singing. Recognize the Christ in the laughter you hear. The Christ is gleaming here, summoning us to share love and light as we greet our neighbors, share peace, pass the bread and cup, and love kindness across this earth.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

UNISON PRAYER OF BLESSING

Holy Spirit, may your Divine Glow bless this bread and cup. Warm our hearts made cold by a chilled world. May this meal inspire us to carry your warmth into our world. Amen.

SHARING BREAD AND CUP

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of Light and Love, we cherish this table in this season when the nights are long and cold. Through this meal, the Christ, and our neighbors, our hearts have warmed. May the comfort in our souls sustain us through winter and nudge us to create welcoming spaces for our neighbors. With gratitude, we leave here energized to kindle your love in this world. Amen.

TIME OF SHARING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Children are welcome to stay in the front pew until after the Anthem.

ANTHEM

The Journey

Music by Lloyd Larson
quoting KINGS OF ORIENT
by John H. Hopkins;
words by Carol M. Hodge
based on Matthew 2:1-12 and II Corinthians 4:6

Children in grades 3 – 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.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

DISCIPLESHIP PLEDGE (An Offertory Prayer)

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. Or give online at www.uccnorwichny.org/give

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

Pew Bible OT p. 766

Matthew 2:1-12

Pew Bible NT p. 2

REFLECTION *Silly Gifts*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INTERLUDE

Reverence Medley

by Leroy Robertson

Arr. by Sheryl Martineau

AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

United Church of Christ Statement of 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**

What Child Is This
(Tune: GREENSLEEVES)

#148

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Noel*

by Ernest H. Melling

CALENDAR

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

- 9:00am Nursery, upstairs
- 10:00am Worship, Nave
Sunday School grades 3-8
- 11:00am Pot Luck Lunch, Founders Room - Come even if you didn't plan on it!

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

- 10:00am Knitting Group, kitchen
- 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom
- 3:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Room

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

- 9:00am AARP Tax Training, Founders Room
- 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom
- 6:00pm D. Burch, Founders Room
- 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal, Nave

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

- 1:00 p.m. Piecemakers Monthly Meeting, Founders Rm.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

- 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

- 4:00pm Youth Group, upstairs

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

- 9:00am Nursery, upstairs
- 10:00am Worship, Nave
Sunday School grades 3-8
- 11:00am Fellowship coffee hour, Founders Rm.

January 7, 2024

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL for children in grades 3 - 8 takes place upstairs after the choir anthem.

CHECK OUT THE BULLETIN BOARD and sign up to be the liturgist, usher or coffee hour host.

IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR when 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).

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor and Teacher: Rev. Jason Boyd

Liturgist: Elinor Beebe

Director of Music Ministries: Mary Williams

Organist: David Burch

Director of Children and Youth Ministries: Ericka Tyler

Live Stream: Chris McSweeney, Jennifer Strough, Liam Hunter

Sunday Sexton: Mya Yantz

Nursery: Fiora Breese

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

CHAIR OF DEACONS: Pat Burke

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.

