



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



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



An Open and Affirming Church

February 4 2024

10:00 a.m

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Come, Follow Me* by Samuel McBurney
Arranged by Lynne Perry Christofferson

WELCOME

Please sign the attendance pad in the pew.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

—from Psalm 147: 1-11, 20c and Isaiah 40: 21-31

ONE: To whom can we compare you, O Holy One?

ALL: We lift up our eyes,

ONE: We wait upon the Eternal, our God.

ALL: How good it is to sing praises to our God.

ONE: A song of praise is fitting!

ALL: Let us worship God together.

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

Call to worship, Prayer for Transformation and New Life and Benediction from
Worship Ways <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-epiphany-5b-february-4/>

Pastoral Prayer from Life in Liturgy by Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in
WV posted on Life in Liturgy, from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). [https://
lifeinliturgy.wordpress.com/](https://lifeinliturgy.wordpress.com/)

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UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Everlasting God, Creator of the ends of the earth, you who spread the heavens like a curtain, and make us a tent to live in, gather us in the shelter of your love, and renew our strength, that with wings as eagles we might not grow weary as we walk with you. We pray in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** *Lead on Eternal Sovereign*
(Tune: LANCASHIRE)

#573

TIME OF SHARING

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 147:1-11, 20C

ONE: Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God, for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

ALL: The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

ONE: He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

ALL: He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.

ONE: Great is our Lord and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

ALL: The LORD lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground.

ONE: Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.

ALL: He covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, makes grass grow on the hills.

ONE: He gives to the animals their food and to the young ravens when they cry.

ALL: His delight is not in the strength of the horse nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner,

ONE: but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

ALL: He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances. Praise the LORD!

ANTHEM *There is A Balm*

Hand Bell Choir

African American Spiritual
arr.by Ron Mallory

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Ericka Tyler

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.

*Children in grades 3-8 are invited upstairs for
Sunday School at this time.*

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

DISCIPLESHIP PLEDGE (and 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.

UNISON PRAYER

Holy One, we bring our gifts and pray that they may be for the building up and lifting up of your people, for the binding of wounds and the healing of hearts, for shelter and for covering and clothing for those in need. With these gifts we offer our songs of praise as we hope in your steadfast love. Amen.

*Offering plates are located at both Nave doors
for your convenience. Give online at www.uccnorwichny.org/give*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:29-39

Pew Bible NT p. 35

* **HYMN** *You Are Called to Tell the Story*
(Tune: REGENT SQUARE)

Insert

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

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.

A TIME OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

ONE: God invites us to come to worship as our whole selves:
God offers us a new beginning day by day and week by week. Trusting in God, we pray for transformation and new life:

ALL: **Holy One, we hope in your steadfast love, bringing our broken hearts and our wounded spirits. Make us aware of the hearts we break, the spirits we wound, of those we treat as outcasts, of those we tread down. Renew us in your grace, renew us in your strength. Amen.**

WORDS OF GRACE

ONE: Have you not known? Have you not heard? God does not grow weary with us, but loves, forgives, and renews us. Go with renewed strength in your walk of faith.

ALL: **Alleluia! Amen!**

(a time of prayer and reflection)

INTERLUDE *Spirit of Prayer*

by Colin Curtis

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

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less
(Tune: SOLID ROCK)

#403

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Voluntary-Allegro*

by Francis Linley

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 Children's Moment.

FREE 2B ME YOUTH GROUP Saturdays, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. For youth in grades 5 -12.

LAY LEADERS NEEDED - During this time when we are without a member of clergy to lead a service, we are relying on lay leadership from the congregation. We are in need of folks who are willing to lead the worship service in pairs. We need one more person for each of the remaining weeks in February, and two each week in March. And if you feel called to offer a message in the form of a mini sermon, please contact the church office.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS will be available from the church office or website. **Please note the earlier deadline this year - APPLICATIONS ARE DUE MARCH 30.**

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO OUR SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE Supper, Feb 13th serving 4:30 – 6:30. Supper will include our signature pancakes, sausage, applesauce, homemade maple syrup and beverages. We will also feature live musical entertainment! All proceeds from a free will offering will support our new Fellowship Hall lift. We hope you can join us for an evening of fun and fellowship!
--Your friends at Christ Lutheran Church (94 N Broad St.)

COMMUNITY ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE -

Wednesday, February 14, 7:00 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, 94 N Broad St. All are welcome. Livestreaming is available.

COMMUNITY LENTEN STUDY of the book *Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple*, Tuesdays Feb 13 - Mar 26. Lite Lunch 11:30 a.m., Study 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. at Broad St. United Methodist Church.

EMERGENCY BLOOD DRIVE at Guernsey Memorial Library on Tuesday, February 6 - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Those who give blood in the month of February can also receive a \$20 Amazon gift card via email. **To register to donate, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org.**

PLEASE DON'T TAKE ANY RISKS to get to church on a Sunday morning if the weather is bad, especially since you can tune in to the livestream. If we cancel church all together, we will send an email to our weekly worship information list, post on Facebook and Instagram, and also announce it with message on the church phone (607-334-3434).

February 4, 2024

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:

Liturgists: Pete and Mary Williams

Director of Music Ministries: Mary Williams

Organist: David Burch

Handbell Choir: 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, Jessica 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

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

Monday-Tuesday-Thursday-Friday

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

(closed for lunch 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.)



CALENDAR

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

- 9:00am Nursery, upstairs
- 10:00am Worship, Nave
Sunday School grades 3 - 8
- 11:30am Handbell Choir Rehearsal, upstairs

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5

- 9:00am AARP Tax Preparation, Founders Rm./Kitchen
- 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom
- 10:00am Knitting, Mayflower Rm.
- 3:00pm Tai Chi, Mayflower Rm.
- 7:00pm Executive Council Meeting, Founders Rm. and Zoom

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

- 9:00am Emergency Blood Drive at Guernsey Library. See announcements.
- 1:00pm Piecemakers, Kitchen

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

- 9:00am AARP Tax Preparation, Founders Room/Kitchen
- 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom
- 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal, Nave

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Church Office Closed

- 1:00pm Piecemakers Monthly Meeting, Founders Rm.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

- 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom
- 9:00am AARP Tax Preparation, Founders Room/Kitchen

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

- 9:00am Piecemakers, Founders Rm./Kitchen
- 4:00pm Youth Group, upstairs

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

- 9:00am Nursery, upstairs
- 10:00am Worship, Nave
Sunday School grades 3 - 8
- 11:00am Fellowship coffee hour, Founders Rm.
- 11:30am Handbell Choir Rehearsal, upstairs