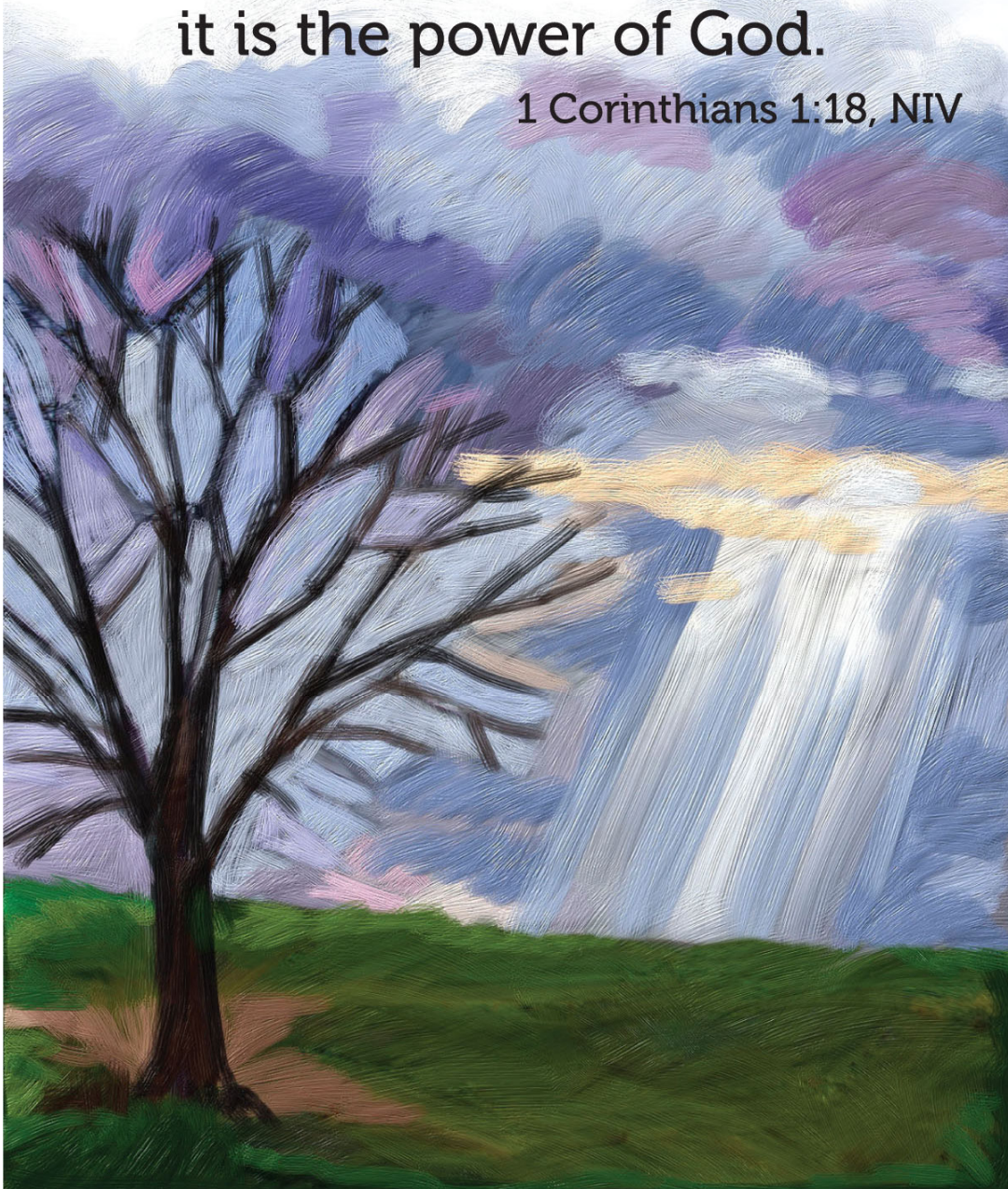


For the message of the cross  
is foolishness to those  
who are perishing,  
but to us who are being saved  
it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18, NIV



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



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



**An Open and Affirming Church**

**March 3, 2024**

**10:00 a.m**

**Third Sunday in Lent**

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***PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD***

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**PRELUDE** *Ah, Holy Jesus* by Johann Crüger  
quoting *Herzliebster Jesu* arr. Cathy Moglebust

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***GATHERING***

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**ONE:** Into the house of God we are called to enter,

**ALL:** **to worship and receive the gift of grace.**

**ONE:** As we step towards this sacred space,

**ALL:** **we acknowledge all that can distract or exploit.**

**ONE:** God calls upon us to cleanse our houses of all that does not find its source in God's love.

**ALL:** **Together we give ourselves in worship and right relations with our neighbor. Let us worship God.**

**UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**O God of temples and tables turned over, we enter this sacred space of worship seeking your transformation and healing. Make us ready for the kind of turned upside down world you are seeking to build among us. We have come to this place of worship to be changed, so turn over our tables and make us whole. In the name of Jesus, our savior. Amen.**

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\*Please stand in body or in spirit.

**Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*  
(Tune: ELLACOMBE)

#12

### **TIME OF SHARING**

**SCRIPTURE READING** Psalm 19

ONE: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

**ALL: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.**

ONE: There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

**ALL: yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,**

ONE: which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

**ALL: Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hidden from its heat.**

ONE: The law of the LORD is perfect, the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

**ALL: the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;**

ONE: the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring for ever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

**ALL: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.**

ONE: Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

**ALL: But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.**

ONE: Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

**ALL: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *Antiphonal Celebration* by Kevin McChesney  
Handbell Choir

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

Michael Moren

## **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.

*There is no Sunday School this week. Nursery care is available for children up to age 5. As always your children are welcome to stay in the Nave during the service.*

## **INVITATION TO GENEROSITY**

### **UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**O God, whose richness is not found at the tables of those willing to exchange goods for the sake of acquiring earthly riches, but rather is found at the table of extravagant love for neighbor, we entrust these gifts to your care that they may abound in your steadfast love for all persons. Use them for the building of your beloved community here on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.**

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

*Give online at [www.uccnorwichny.org/give](http://www.uccnorwichny.org/give)*

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

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Pew Bible NT p. 173

John 2:13-22

Pew Bible NT p. 96

**HYMN** *Be Now My Vision*

#451

(Tune: SLANE)

**MESSAGE** *Miracles in March*

Mary Williams

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

### **INTERLUDE**

## ***A TIME OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION***

### **LENTEN SERVICE OF DIMINISHING LIGHTS**

#### **UNISON PRAYER**

**Draw us together in your love, O God. May our restless hearts not resist you, but continue to search until they find their rest in you. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

#### **SHARING OF JOYS/CONCERNS**

#### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

#### **THE LORDS 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**

*Guide My Feet*

#497

(Tune: GUIDE MY FEET)

#### **BENEDICTION**

#### **POSTLUDE**



#### **BULLETIN NOTES:**

Call to Worship and Prayers taken from Worship Ways Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ - <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/lent-3b-march-3/>

MESSAGE based on <https://justinahurley.wordpress.com/2012/06/17/sunday-story-fathers-day-and-the-lesson-of-the-wailing-wall/>

LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY from <https://processandfaith.org/lenten-candle-liturgy/>

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THERE IS NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY. NURSERY** for children up to age 5 is available. And, as always, children of any age are welcome to stay in the Nave throughout the service.

**ZOOM BIBLE STUDY FOR LENT** - You are invited to join Rev. Laura Wedge and Christ Lutheran Church on Monday evenings from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. on Zoom through March 25. Contact Cheri in the church office for the login information.

**UCC and BSUMC will be joining together for a Palm Sunday Service, 10:30am on March 24 at Broad Street United Methodist Church.** (Some of you might remember our tradition of sharing services back in the days of Reverends Joe Connolly, Becky Sweet, Jeff Hale and Nancy Hale.) Mary Williams is coordinating combined choir anthems for the service. You all are welcome to join us for rehearsals on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. at UCC on 3/6 and 3/13 and 3/20.

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING** will be taken next Sunday, March 10th. See the insert this week for more about what this fund is used for.

**COMMUNITY LENTEN STUDY** of the book *Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple*, Tuesdays Feb. 13 - Mar. 19. Light Lunch 11:30 a.m., Study 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. at Broad St. United Methodist Church. Books are available.

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS** are available from the church office or website. **APPLICATIONS ARE DUE MARCH 30.**

**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. Please check the bulletin board - many dates are open in March. And if you feel called to offer a message in the form of a mini sermon, please contact the church office.

**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).

## CALENDAR

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

### **SUNDAY, MARCH 3 - Third Sunday in Lent**

- 9:00am Nursery, upstairs
- 10:00am Worship, Nave (No Sunday School this week.)
- 11:00am Fellowship Coffee Hour, Founders Rm.
- 11:30am Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal, upstairs

### **MONDAY, MARCH 4**

- 9:00am AARP Tax Preparation, Founders Rm./Kitchen
- 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom
- 10:00am Knitting Group, Mayflower Room
- 3:00pm Tai Chi, Mayflower Rm.

### **TUESDAY, MARCH 5**

- 11:30am Community Lenten Study with lunch at Broad St. UMC (see announcements)
- 1:00pm Piecemakers, Kitchen

### **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6**

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

### **THURSDAY, MARCH 7**

- 9:00am AARP Tax Preparation, Founders Room/Kitchen

### **FRIDAY, MARCH 8**

- 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom

### **SATURDAY, MARCH 9**

***Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour tonight!***

- 4:00pm Youth Group, upstairs

### **SUNDAY, MARCH 10 - Fourth Sunday in Lent**

***Daylight Savings Time Starts***

- 9:00am Nursery, upstairs
- 10:00am Worship, Nave (Sunday School grades 3-8)  
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
- 11:00am Fellowship Coffee Hour, Founders Rm.



March 3, 2024

*The flowers are given by  
Norma Kinney  
in memory of  
her grandmother,  
Arvilla M. Kinney*



**TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:**

**Lay Leader:** Ed Tucker

**Liturgist/Sharing the Message:** 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

**Children's Moment:** Michael Moren

**Live Stream:** Chris McSweeney, Jessica Strough, Liam Hunter

**Sunday Sexton:** Mya Yantz

**Nursery:** Fiora Breese

**Usher:** Pat Burke

**Fellowship Hour:** Pat Burke

**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

**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 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.)

