

...by grace
you
have
been
saved...
Ephesians 2:5,
NRSV

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



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



An Open and Affirming Church

March 10, 2024

10:00 a.m

Fourth Sunday in Lent

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Pastorale*

by Flor Peters

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION MOMENT *One Great Hour of Sharing*

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God's love is for all of creation.

ALL: **The vastness of God is for human, animal, soil,
and sun, all together as God's beloved.**

ONE: God has not come into the world in Jesus to condemn
us.

ALL: **Jesus has come to live God's love in the flesh.**

ONE: While the world is dim with injustice and the feeling of
loneliness,

ALL: **it is in Jesus that the light of love illumines our
path of friendship. Come, let us join our lives with
the Friend, whose love is for the whole world. Let
us worship God!**

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

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UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

O God who is Friend, the vastness of your love flows through all of creation, and this is cause for rejoicing. For all the harshness and condemnation that we see in the world, you have come to us out of love, compassion, and to save us from ourselves. We acknowledge our belief that you have come to redeem, to heal, to restore, and forgive, not just some of the world, but all of the world. May our worship embody the love and light you bring in Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound
(Tune: AMAZING GRACE)

#457

TIME OF SHARING

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

ONE: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

ALL: Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble

ONE: and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

ALL: Some were sick through their sinful ways and because of their iniquities endured affliction;

ONE: they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

ALL: Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress;

ONE: he sent out his word and healed them and delivered them from destruction.

ALL: Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

Handbell Choir

based on a Traditional Spiritual
arranged by Lloyd Larson

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 GENEROSITY

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Thank you, God, for loving us to the very ends of the earth and back. Your willingness to say yes to coming in the flesh to redeem our world through love and no to the powers of oppression has led us to give of ourselves generously this day. Take these gifts and multiply them across this world that you love so extravagantly. 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 READINGS

Ephesians 2:1-10 Pew Bible (NRSV) NT p. 205
(Easy English Bible version)

John 3:14-21 Pew Bible (NRSV) NT p. 96

HYMN *There is a Balm in Gilead*
(Tune: BALM IN GILEAD)

#553

MESSAGE

Bob Oehme

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INTERLUDE *Zion's Hill*

by James Crutchfield
arranged by Greg Howlett

A TIME OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION

LENTEN SERVICE OF DIMINISHING LIGHTS

UNISON PRAYER

Loving God, we thank you that you are with us, and that we may call upon you no matter where we are, or what we are feeling. Keep us mindful of your presence and trusting in your promise—that you are working with us in the moment-by-moment unfolding of our lives. 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.

WORDS OF GRACE

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

***CLOSING HYMN**

How Can I Say Thanks
(Tune: MY TRIBUTE)

#14

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Cortege

by Flor Peters



Bulletin Notes:

CALL TO WORSHIP, INVITATION AND PRAYERS are from Worship Ways Worship Resources <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/lent-4b-march-10/>, written by The Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott, Conference Minister in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference.

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NURSERY for children up to age 5 is available upstairs at the front of the church.

IN CASE OF PASTORAL EMERGENCY, contact Rev. Mary Rublee from the Broad Street United Methodist Church at 607-371-5077.

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.

COMMUNITY LENTEN BOOK STUDY - *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.**

MONDAY EVENING MUSICAL CLUB invites you to their *Music in Our Schools Month concert* on Monday, 3/11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Nave. This concert is free and open to the public. An offering will be accepted to benefit their scholarship program. Livestream available at <facebook.com/mondayeveningmusicclub>

CALENDAR

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 10 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

Daylight Saving 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.

MONDAY, MARCH 11

- 9:00am AARP Tax Preparation, Founders Rm./Kitchen
- 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom
- 3:00pm Tai Chi, Mayflower Rm.
- 6:00pm Zoom Bible Study with Christ Lutheran Church. (See announcements.)
- 7:00pm Monday Evening Musical Club concert, Nave. (See announcements.)
- 7:00pm Executive Council Meeting, Founders Room and Zoom

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

- 11:30am Community Lenten Study with lunch at Broad St. UMC (see announcements)
- 1:00pm Piecemakers, Kitchen
- 5:00pm Pride Alliance Meeting, Founders Room

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

- 1:00pm Piecemakers monthly meeting, Founders Room

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

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

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SATURDAY, MARCH 16

9:00am Piecemakers, Founders Room
4:00pm Youth Group, upstairs

SUNDAY, MARCH 17 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

St Patrick's Day

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

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:

Lay Leader/Sharing the Message: Bob Oehme

Liturgist: Elinor Beebe

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

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

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.)

