

The hour has come
for the

SON
of
MAN
to be glorified.



JOHN 12:23, 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 17, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

by Gilbert Martin

adapted by Richard Redhead

David Burch and Bob Oehme

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: New life rises!

ALL: That which rises, must first fall and die.

ONE: Single grains merely remain as they are unless they are released to the ground.

ALL: The grains of the earth that fall will multiply and nourish.

ONE: Come, die to the self and live a life of service to the Living God.

ALL: And God will raise us up anew. Amen.

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

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UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of grains and grace, we gather today seeking to follow in the way of Jesus. The path he chose for his disciples was one of service and it requires of us that we lay down our desires, our ambitions, and serve you with our whole heart. May our worship this day inspire our dying and rising with you as we seek to love and serve like Jesus. May it be so. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN *Jesus Shall Reign* #300
(Tune: DUKE STREET)

TIME OF SHARING

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 51:1-12

ONE: To the leader. A Psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.

ALL: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

ONE: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

ALL: Against you, you alone, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence blameless when you pass judgment.

ONE: Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

ALL: You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

ONE: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

ALL: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

ONE: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

ALL: Create in me a clean heart, O God, put a new and right spirit within me.

ONE: Do not cast me away from your presence, do not take

your holy spirit from me.

ALL: Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Change My Heart, O God

by Eddie Espinosa
arr. by Joel Raney

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

O God who causes our lives to rise, we lay down to you the abundance you have given us and allow it to fall so that you may multiply it to give life to your world. May it be so. 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

John 12:20-33

Pew Bible NT p. 110

HYMN *What Wondrous Love is This* #223
(Tune: WONDROUS LOVE)

MESSAGE Joe's Miracle Story Joe Phelps

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INTERLUDE *Danny Boy* (Londonderry Air) Traditional
arranged by Chris Nole

A TIME OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION

LENTEN SERVICE OF DIMINISHING LIGHTS

UNISON PRAYER

Loving God, we open our hearts to you. We invite you into our inmost being, only to find you already there. Strengthen us in our quiet places and then lead us into the work of justice and peace. 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**

My Song Is Love Unknown #222 (v. 1, 2, 5)
(Tune: RHOSYMEDRE)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Allein Gott in der Hoh sei Ehr by Johann Gottfried Walther



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.

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP NEXT WEEK will be at the Broad Street United Methodist Church at 10:30 a.m. We will be joining together for worship, a combined choir and a coffee hour. Please join us.

PLANNING AHEAD FOR HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday service on March 28 at 7:00 p.m. at Broad St. United Methodist Church.

Good Friday service on March 29 at 7:00 p.m. at the Christ Lutheran Church.

DEADLINE FOR EASTER MEMORIALS IS Tuesday, March 26. Use the insert in the bulletin or contact the church office.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed Thursday March 21 through Monday March 25. Phone messages and emails will be responded to on March 26.

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.

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.**

CALENDAR

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

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.

MONDAY, MARCH 18

- 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.
- 6:00pm Zoom Bible Study with Christ Lutheran Church. (See announcements.)

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

- 9:00am AARP Tax Preparation, Founders Room/Kitchen
- 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom
- 4:00pm Laundry Love at Byrne Dairy
- 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal, Nave

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

Church Office Closed

- 9:00am AARP Tax Preparation, Founders Room/Kitchen
- 5:00pm Soul Kitchen Free Hot Meal at Emmanuel Episcopal Church
- 6:00pm Helping Hands Giveaway at the YMCA

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

Church Office Closed

- 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

- 9:00am 4th Saturday Diaper Distribution at First Baptist Church
- 4:00pm Youth Group, upstairs

SUNDAY, MARCH 24 - Palm Sunday

- 10:30am Joint worship service at Broad St. United Methodist Church, 74 N. Broad St..
- 4:30pm Free Community Dinner at Broad St. UMC

March 17, 2024

Bulletin Notes:

Call to worship, Invitation and Prayers are from Worship Ways Worship Resources <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/lent-5b-march-17/> written by The Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott, Conference Minister in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference.

Lenten Candle Liturgy from <https://processandfaith.org/lenten-candle-liturgy/>

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:

Message: Joe Phelps

Liturgists: Rose Laughlin, Miranda Hunter

Director of Music Ministries: Mary Williams

Organist: David Burch

Organist Emeritus: Bob Oehme

Director of Children and Youth Ministries: Ericka Tyler

Live Stream: Chris McSweeney, Jessica Strough, Liam Hunter

Sunday Sexton: Mya Yantz

Nursery: Fiora Breese

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

(closed for lunch 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.)

Friday 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

