A photograph of a stone wall made of large, grey, rectangular blocks. Green pine branches with needle-like leaves hang over the top of the wall. The text is overlaid on the upper part of the image.

**The LORD lives!**  
Blessed be my rock, and exalted be the  
**God of my salvation.**

**Psalm 18:46, NRSV**

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



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



**An Open and Affirming Church**

**October 13, 2024**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost**

***PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD***

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**PRELUDE** *Voluntary in E Minor*

By John Stanley  
Edited by Charles Callahan

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***GATHERING***

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**ONE:** We come together to seek a great vision.

**ALL:** **We seek your call in our time, O Lord.**

**ONE:** We have eyes to see, ears to listen, and hands to serve.

**ALL:** **We seek your direction on this day, O Lord. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**As we come together in your presence, O Lord, make us more fully aware of your faithfulness in our lives and in the life of this world. Enable us to find faith enough to respond to your grace; help us to become faithful servants, growing in strength even in the midst of the great challenges before us. Give us a renewed vision to serve with excitement and endurance with your help and that of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*This Is a Day of New Beginnings*

#417 (vs. 1-4)

**\*Please stand in body or in spirit.**

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

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Ericka Tyler

**ANTHEM** *For the Beauty of the Earth* Words by Folliot S. Pierpoint  
Congregation joins on verses 3 & 4 (see insert)  
Emma Palmer, flute Tune DIX by Conrad Kocher  
Arranged by Anne Laura Page.

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

**ONE:** May the Peace of Jesus Christ be with all of you.

**ALL:** And also with you.

*Please greet one another in a manner most comfortable to you.*

**SUNG RESPONSE** *Bind Us Together*

Insert

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

## TIME OF SHARING

**SERMON:** *Facing Reality*  
**Scripture:** Matthew 23:36-44

Rev. James K. Boodley  
Pew Bible NT p. 27

## INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

*Cantique*

By Flor Peeters

## DOXOLOGY (Tune #7)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, in whom all grace we know.  
Praise to the Spirit, evermore;  
One God, triune, whom we adore. (Amen.)

## UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, we come before you with gratitude for your enduring faithfulness to us in every moment of our lives. We thank you for your son, Jesus the Christ, who offers us love, healing, hope and a sense of direction. To you and to him we offer our intangible gifts of our lives, our time, and our talents. We offer our tangible gifts of our funds. As you release both kinds of gifts into the world, may they be a source of strength, comfort, and joy to all who receive them. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## SHARING OF JOYS/CONCERNS

## PASTORAL PRAYER



October 13, 2024

**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** *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* #400

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *Festive Voluntary* by Robert Lau

*The wreath is in honor of Carrie, Norma and Judy's niece. Carrie is able to keep a positive attitude, a good sense of humor and a bright smile as she adjusts to the limitations due to Multiple Sclerosis.*

**PARTICIPANTS TODAY**

**Ministers:** All the People

**Pastor:** Rev. James K. Boodley

**Liturgist:** Elinor Beebe

**Director of Music Ministries:** Mary Williams

**Organist:** David Burch

**Livestream Director:** Jennifer Mallozzi

**Livestream Staff:** Chris McSweeney, Jessica Strough, Liam Hunter

**Sunday Sexton:** Ericka Tyler

**Nursery:** Fiora Breese

**Coffee Hour:** Rose Laughlin, Norma Kinney

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST FIRST CONGREGATIONAL**

11 West Main St., Norwich NY 13815

607-334-3434 - office@uccnorwichny.org - www.uccnorwichny.org

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday-Tuesday-Thursday

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (*Closed 12 - 1 for lunch*)

Friday

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



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **WIFI IS AVAILABLE**

Network Name: UCC-Guest

Password: uccguest

**NURSERY** is available for children up to age 5 starting at 9:00 a.m.  
Located up the stairs at the front of the church.

**ANNUAL BUDGET INFORMATIONAL MEETING DATE CHANGE** - The Budget Meeting will now be held on Sunday, October 20, following the service in the Founders Room. All are encouraged to attend.

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, October 14 for Indigenous Peoples Day.**

### **WANTING TO HELP PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THE HURRICANES?**

Go to <https://support.ucc.org/global-HOPE> to donate - you can designate your gift to US Hurricane Relief (or other worldwide needs). Checks can be sent to United Church of Christ, PO Box 71957, Cleveland OH 44194.

**ORDER YOUR FREE COVID TESTS** to have on hand if you or someone in your home is ill. Go to [COVIDtests.gov](https://covidtests.gov). You can also check on the extended expiration dates for any older tests you have.

**BROAD STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** is collecting clean coats, socks, gloves, scarves, and hats to supply a FREE coat rack made available to those who need them. Drop your donations off at BSUMC Monday - Friday from 7 a.m. - 12 p.m. Your contribution will make a real difference in keeping our community warm this winter.

**HELP GREEN THE CITY OF NORWICH!** Volunteers are needed to help the Tree Committee plant trees along the streets and parks of the City of Norwich. There are two planting events coming up: Friday, October 18, at 2:00 pm and Saturday, October 19, at 2:00 pm. We'll meet at Kurt Beyer Park both days for a planting demonstration and assign planting spots. Bring a shovel and work gloves. If interested in getting your hands dirty and making a difference, please email us at [norwichtrees@gmail.com](mailto:norwichtrees@gmail.com) with your name, phone number, and preferred planting day. Thank you for helping us create a greener, more beautiful Norwich!

## **CALENDAR**

*The Chenango Muslim Community meets upstairs daily at 9:30 p.m. & Fridays at 1:30 p.m.*

### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13**

- 9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
- 10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave  
Sunday School K-3 upstairs
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
- 12:30 p.m. Free 2B Me Youth Group, upstairs (Grades 5-12)

### **MONDAY OCTOBER 14 - INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY**

*Church Office Closed*

- 2:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders Room

### **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15**

- 1:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Kitchen
- 1:00 p.m. Transition Committee, Founders Rm/Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen, St. Bart's Parish Center

### **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16**

- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Laundry Love, Byrne Dairy
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Nave

### **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17**

- 5:30 p.m. Free meal at Emmanuel Episcopal Church
- 6:00 p.m. Helping Hands Give-away, YMCA

### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20**

- 9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
- 10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave  
Sunday School K-3 upstairs
- 11:00 a.m. Budget Meeting, Founders Rm.  
Coffee Hour
- 12:30 p.m. *Free 2B Me Youth Group, upstairs (Grades 5-12)*
- 4:30 p.m. Free Community Dinner at Broad St. United Methodist Church

*Unison*

1 This is a day of new be - gin - nings, time to re -  
 2 For by the life and death of Je - sus, God's might - y  
 3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the  
 4 Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and  
 \* In faith we'll gath - er 'round the ta - ble to taste and

mem - ber and move on, time to be - lieve what love is  
 Spir - it, now as then, can make for us a world of  
 past and leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and  
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -  
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -

bring - ing, lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.  
 dif - ference, as faith and hope are born a - gain.  
 griev - ing, seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.  
 gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.  
 gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.

\*Alternate fourth stanza for Holy Communion

*Brian Wren wrote this hymn in 1978 for a New Year's Day service in Oxford, England. The music is by the editor of two hymnals of the United Methodist Church and was composed for the original Wren text.*

Tune: BEGINNINGS 9.8.9.8.  
 Carlton R. Young, 1987

# Bind Us Together

©1977 THANKYOU MUSIC (PRS)

Words and Music by BOB GILLMAN

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the staff, and chords are indicated above the staff. The score is divided into five systems, each starting with a measure number. The first system (measures 1-5) has chords F, Dm7, and Gm. The second system (measures 6-10) has chords C7, F, Bb/C, and F. The third system (measures 11-15) has chords Dm7, Gm, C7, and F, ending with a 'Fine' marking. The fourth system (measures 17-21) has chords F, C7, F, C7, and F. The fifth system (measures 25-29) has chords C7, F, F/C, C7, and F, ending with a 'D.C. al Fine' marking. The lyrics are: 'Bind us to - geth - er Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er, bind us to - geth - er with love. We are the fa - mily of God, we are the prom - ise di - vine. We are God's cho - sen de - sire, we are the glo - rious new wine.'

1 F Dm7 Gm  
Bind us to - geth - er Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that

6 C7 F Bb/C F  
can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord,


11 Dm7 Gm C7 F Fine  
bind us to - geth - er, bind us to - geth - er with love.

17 F C7 F C7 F  
We are the fa - mily of God, we are the prom - ise di - vine.


25 C7 F F/C C7 F D.C. al Fine  
We are God's cho - sen de - sire, we are the glo - rious new wine.




## Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

*Eph. 2:20–22; 1 Pet. 2:4–7**Latin, 6th–8th century**Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt.**St. 3 adapt. Thomas H. Troeger, 1992*


1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and cor - ner-stone,  
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O God of Hosts, to - day!  
 3 Here re - new your ser - vants' vis - ion, that by faith they may at - tain



chos - en of our God and pre - cious, bind - ing all the Church in one;  
 With your con - stant, lov - ing kind - ness hear your peo - ple as they pray.  
 peace and hope, re - newed com - pas - sion, strength to com - fort those in pain,



Ho - ly Zi - on's help for - ev - er, and our con - fi - dence a - lone.  
 Give your full - est ben - e - dic - tion: grace to fol - low Christ the Way.  
 Tears and grief trans - formed to glad - ness in your ev - er - last - ing reign.

*The hymn has its origins in an early Latin poem, Urbs beata Jerusalem, based on passages from Ephesians, 1 Peter, and Revelation. "Holy Zion" refers to the church transcendent, built of "living stones"—the saints of God.*

Tune: REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.

*Henry T. Smart, 1867*

Alternate tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY

# FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

Words by  
FOLLIOT S. PIERPOINT (1835-1917)

Tune: **DIX**  
by CONRAD KOCHER (1786-1872)

Arranged by  
ANNA LAURA PAGE

## Choir:

1. For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies;  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

2. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild;  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

## Congregation and Choir:



3. For the\_\_ church that ev - er - more lift - eth ho - ly  
4. For Thy - self, best gift Di - vine, to our world so



hands a - bove, of - fering up on ev - 'ry shore  
free - ly giv'n, for that\_\_ great, great love of Thine,



her pure sac - ri - fice of love; Lord of all, to  
peace on earth, and joy in heav'n; Lord of all, to



Thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.  
Thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.