



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



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



**An Open and Affirming Church**

**November 10, 2024**

**10:00 a.m**

**Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
Stewardship Sunday**

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**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***GATHERING***

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**ONE:** Bless the Lord, all people; bless God's holy name.

**ALL:** **We have come this day to worship and to sit in Christ's learned presence.**

**ONE:** Jesus teaches the way of God in accordance with the truth, showing deference to no one.

**ALL:** **We have come to learn from the eternal Spirit of God, full of grace and truth, who leads us in the way of salvation in this life and the next. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**O Lord, our faith goes through stages when it is strong and when it is weak. You are the cornerstone that keeps us strong and keeps us together, as individuals and as a community of faith. Lead us through our valleys and our temptations, we pray, and bring us at last into your realm, through your grace and in whose name we pray. Amen.**

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\*Please stand in body or in spirit.

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

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*Take My Gifts*

#562

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

Ericka Tyler

**ANTHEM** *Song of Thanksgiving*

Anna Cecilia  
Tony Ward

**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** *The Work Continues*

Rev. James K. Boodley

**SCRIPTURE** Matthew 24:3-14, 23-28, 36-44

Pew Bible NT p. 27

**INTERLUDE**

**INVITATION TO GENEROSITY**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Generous God, we are honored you have provided for us out of your abundance. We have enough, more than enough to share. We do so now, in the name of and for the sake of the ministry of Jesus the Christ, our redeemer and the giver of every good gift. In his name we pray. Amen.**

**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.

## STEWARDSHIP PRESENTATION

**A STEWARDSHIP PSALM– BASED ON PSALM 98** by Karen Georgia Thompson

ONE: O sing to the Lord a new song  
God has done marvelous things  
God made known the beauty of all God made  
let us give thanks to God as we steward the earth  
let us give thanks to God as we give of the gifts we received.

**ALL: We give generously to all from all God has given to us.**

ONE: The sea roars as do all that fills it  
the sky invites our participation in rejoicing  
we care for the oceans, the rivers and the seas  
we care for the flowers, the trees, the grass and the earth  
singing praises to God making a joyful noise to God with  
the birds of the air.

**ALL: We give generously to all from all God has given to us.**

ONE: We give of our time to care for each other  
we give of our time to care for the earth  
we give of our time to care for all of creation.  
We give of our talent and treasure clapping our hands and  
rejoicing, we are a part of the world and all those who live  
therein.

**ALL: We give generously to all from all God has given to us.  
God's steadfast love and faithfulness extends to the  
ends of the earth.**

**We are invited to steward the earth to join with the  
Divine to care for all created.**

**We give as God has given to us with love and joy.**

**We give generously to all from all God has given to us.**

*(Offering plate brought forward, pastoral blessing.)*

## COMMISSION AND BLESSING

\*CLOSING HYMN     *We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky*     #563

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WIFI IS AVAILABLE

Network Name: UCC-Guest

Password: uccguest

**THERE IS NO NURSERY AVAILABLE TODAY.** As always, children are welcome in the Nave throughout the service. Coloring books and crayons are available at the back of the Nave.

**THE WORSHIP TEAM** is looking for participants in the Advent and Christmas Eve candle lighting liturgy on Sundays 12/1, 12/8, 12/15 12/22 and Christmas Eve 12/24. This would involve reading some short passages and lighting a candle. Contact the church office or Mary Williams for more information or if you would like to participate.

**THE TRANSITION COMMITTEE** would like to hear from you as you consider this probing question posed by Pastor J.K. Boodley: "WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO JOIN THIS CHURCH?" The Committee is eager to begin gathering information and ideas from everyone and will be considering questions such as *Who is God calling us to become?*, *Who are we now?* and *Who is our neighbor?* Committee members: Pat Burke, Miranda Hunter (Co-Chair), Michael Moren (Co-Chair), Judy Smith, Jessica Strough, Ed Tucker, and Mary Williams. The Transition Committee looks forward to hearing from you.

**THANKSGIVING BASKET FOOD DONATIONS** - Bring in stuffing, oats (for apple crisp), canned vegetables and other non-perishable food items for inclusion in our food baskets. There is a barrel in the Founders Room.

**GRIEF SHARE**, a grief support ministry, offered by CVFreeChurch is a 13-week program for people who are grieving a loved one's death. Each session features a short video followed by a small-group discussion. The videos present valuable insights from Christian counselors, pastor and healthcare professionals on grief-related topics as well as stories of people who have faced loss and what was helpful to them. The current session is finishing up on December 13 and a new session begins on January 12. You can join at any time during the 13 weeks. More details are available at [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org). Attending the group is free. There are pamphlets on the table outside our church office.

**FUNDRAISER FOR THE PLACE** - Wreaths \$35, 6-inch red poinsettias \$15 from Pires Florist. Tickets can be purchased from Board Members (Norma Kinney) or call The Place at 607-336-9696. Pick Up is at The Place by December 20.

**FREE THANKSGIVING DINNER** on November 28 at 12:00 noon at Emmanuel Episcopal Church (37 West Main St., Norwich). Take-out and delivery within the City of Norwich are available by calling 607-334-8801. *Volunteers are also needed. Call 607-334-8801 or [emmanuelchurch20@gmail.com](mailto:emmanuelchurch20@gmail.com) and provide your name, phone number and number of volunteers by November 15, 2024.*

### **COMMUNITY ADVENT STUDY - YOU ARE INVITED**

**What:** *Prepare the Way for the Lord: Advent and the Message of John the Baptist*

**When:** Tuesdays for 4 weeks (Nov. 26, & Dec. 3, 10, 17)  
Lite Lunch & Fellowship: 11:30 a.m.  
Lenten Study: Noon - 1:00 p.m.

**Where:** Broad St. United Methodist Church (74 N. Broad St. Norwich)

**Discussion Topics:** *A People Prepared for the Lord, God Is Gracious, The Fruit of Repentance, Witnesses Testifying to the Light*

For more information, Call Broad St. UMC at 607-334-8815.

## **CALENDAR**

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

### **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10**

- 10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave - *Stewardship Sunday*  
Sunday School grades 3-8, upstairs after Children's Moment
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
- 12:30 p.m. *Free 2B Me* Youth Group, upstairs (Grades 5-12)
- 3:00 p.m. Rehearsal for the Christmas Cantata

### **MONDAY NOVEMBER 11 - Veterans Day**

#### **Church Office Closed**

- 12:30 p.m. Tutoring, Kitchen
- 2:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders Room

### **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12**

- 1:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Kitchen
- 4:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen, St. Bart's Parish Center
- 5:00 p.m. Pride Alliance Meeting, Founders Room

### **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13**

- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Nave

### **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14**

- 1:00 p.m. Piecemakers Meeting, Mayflower Room

### **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

- 9:00 a.m. Fill Food Boxes for Thanksgiving. Lunch provided after. Sign up on the insert, or see Jessica Strough.

### **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17**

- 9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
- 10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave - *Blessing of Thanksgiving Boxes*  
Sunday School grades 3-8, upstairs after Children's Moment
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
- 12:30 p.m. *Free 2B Me* Youth Group, upstairs (Grades 5-12)
- 3:00 p.m. Rehearsal for the Christmas Cantata

November 10 2024



Online pledge card  
[www.uccnorwichny.org/pledge](http://www.uccnorwichny.org/pledge)



Link to Online Giving  
[www.uccnorwichny.org/give](http://www.uccnorwichny.org/give)

### **PARTICIPANTS TODAY**

**Ministers:** All the People

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

**Liturgist:** Elinor Beebe

**Director of Music Ministries:** Mary Williams

**Organist:** David Burch

**Director of Children's and Youth Ministries:** Ericka Tyler

**Livestream Director:** Jennifer Mallozzi

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

**Sunday Sexton:** Mya Yantz

**Coffee Hour:** Deb and Joe Phelps

### **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)

### **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.





## **Matthew 24:3-14, 23-28, 36-44**

<sup>3</sup> When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. <sup>5</sup> For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Messiah!’ and they will lead many astray. <sup>6</sup> And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. <sup>7</sup> For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places: <sup>8</sup> all this is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

<sup>9</sup> “Then they will hand you over to be tortured and will put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of my name. <sup>10</sup> Then many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another. <sup>11</sup> And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. <sup>12</sup> And because of the increase of lawlessness, the love of many will grow cold. <sup>13</sup> But the one who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>14</sup> And this good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world, as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

## **Matthew 24:23-28**

<sup>23</sup> Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look! Here is the Messiah!’ or ‘There he is!’—do not believe it. <sup>24</sup> For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and produce great signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. <sup>25</sup> Take note, I have told you beforehand. <sup>26</sup> So, if they say to you, ‘Look! He is in the wilderness,’ do not go out. If they say, ‘Look! He is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. <sup>27</sup> For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>28</sup> Wherever the corpse is, there the eagles will gather.

## **Matthew 24:36-44**

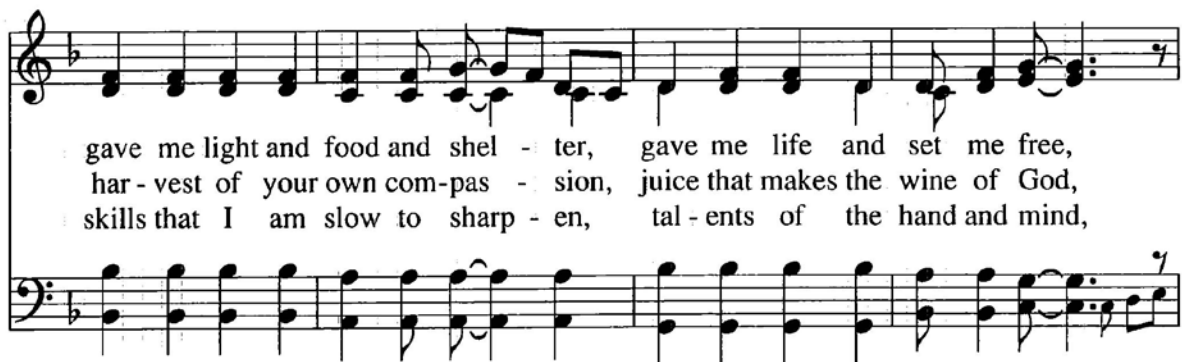
<sup>36</sup> “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup> For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. <sup>42</sup> Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup> But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

# Take My Gifts

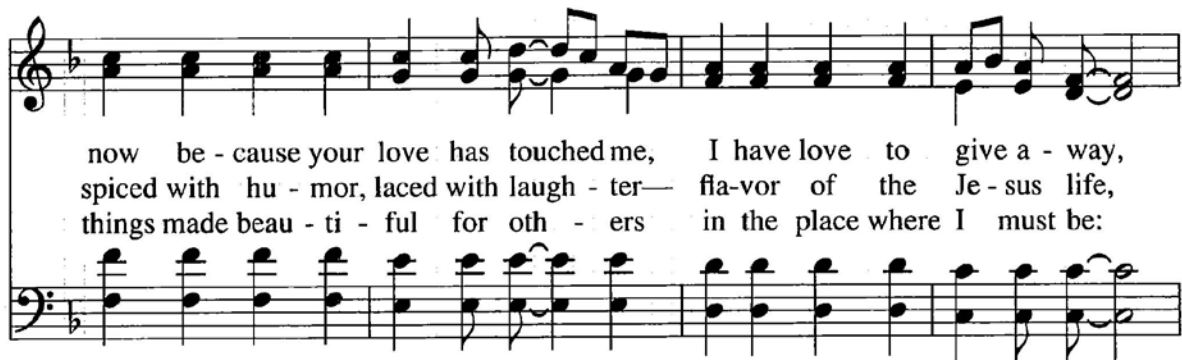
Shirley Erena Murray, 1991



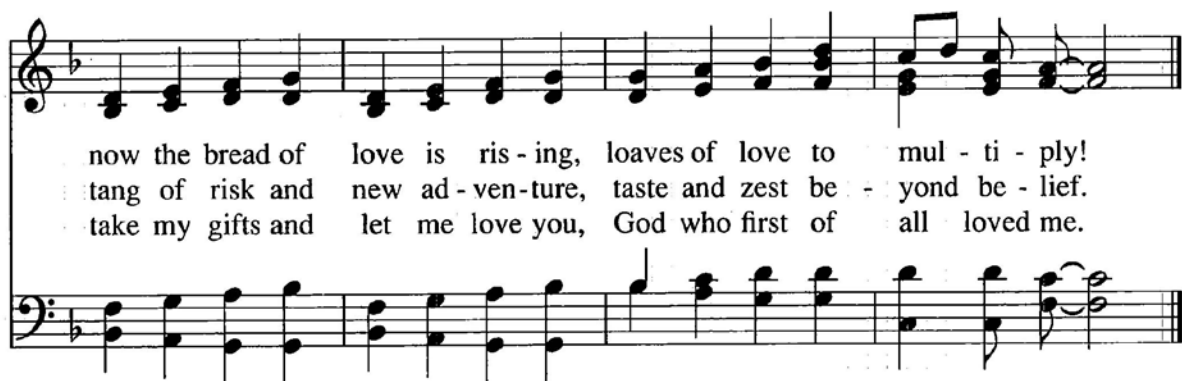
1 Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,  
2 Take the fruit that I have gathered from the tree your Spirit sowed,  
3 Take what-ever I can offer— gifts that I have yet to find,



gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free,  
har-vest of your own com-pas-sion, juice that makes the wine of God,  
skills that I am slow to sharpen, tal-ents of the hand and mind,



now be-cause your love has touched me, I have love to give a-way,  
spiced with hu-mor, laced with laugh-ter— fla-vor of the Je-sus life,  
things made beau-ti-ful for oth-ers in the place where I must be:



now the bread of love is ris-ing, loaves of love to mul-ti-ply!  
tang of risk and new ad-ven-ture, taste and zest be-yond be-lief.  
take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

Shirley Erena Murray recounted that Colin Gibson composed this tune for her stewardship text "almost instantaneously." Gibson has served as professor at the University of Otago, as well as organist and choir director in Dunedin, New Zealand.

Tune: TALAVERA TERRACE 8.7.8.7.D.  
Colin Gibson, 1991  
Alternate tune: HOLY MANNA

# Bind Us Together

©1977 THANKYOU MUSIC (PRS)

Words and Music by BOB GILLMAN

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. Chord symbols are placed above the notes. 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." The score ends with a double bar line and the word "Fine".

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.

## We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

Ruth Duck, 1984; rev. 1989

1 We can - not own the sun - lit sky, the moon, the wild - flowers  
 2 When bod - ies shiv - er in the night and, wea - ry, wait for  
 3 God calls hu - man - i - ty to join as part - ners in cre -

growing, for we are part of all that is with -  
 morn - ing, when chil - dren have no bread but tears, and  
 a - ting a fu - ture free from want or fear, life's

in life's riv - er flow - ing. With o - pen hands re -  
 war - horns sound their warn - ing, God calls hu - man - i -  
 good - ness cel - e - brat - ing. That new world beck - ons

ceive and share the gifts of God's cre - a - tion, that  
 ty to wake, to join in com - mon la - bor, that  
 from a - far, in - vites our shared en - deav - or, that

all may have a - bun - dant life in ev - ery earth - ly na - tion.  
 all may have a - bun - dant life in one - ness with their neigh - bor.  
 all may have a - bun - dant life and peace en - dure for - ev - er.