



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



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



An Open and Affirming Church

December 15, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent - Joy

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CEREMONY OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Third Sunday of Advent – Joy

CANTICLE

Adapted from A Morning Star Will Rise

Joseph Martin

Sing and shout, the day is near.
Soon a Morning Star will rise.
Joy will wipe away each tear.
Soon a Morning Star will rise.
Let the earth break forth with singing.
Ev'ry nation near and far.
Ev'ry hill and valley ringing.
We are reaching for the Morning Star.

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD CANDLE OF ADVENT

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All-knowing God, we have every confidence that tomorrow can better be than today. Guide our steps as we press on steadfastly in hope, confidence, and joy, to help set the stage for your coming reign. Make each spoken word, kind deed, and act of faith be of eternal consequence to that end. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

CANTICLE

Adapted from *A Morning Star Will Rise* Joseph Martin

***OPENING HYMN**

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates #117

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Ericka Tyler

SPECIAL MUSIC *O Come All Ye Faithful and Patapan*

Arranged by Doris Gazda and Larry Clark

Clarinet trio: Lily Turnbull, Heavenly Mahaffey, Fiora Breese
(Heavenly Mahaffey is the recipient of a UCC Music Lesson
Scholarship.)

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

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

TIME OF SHARING

SERMON *John's Warnings: What About Today?*

Rev. James K. Boodley

SCRIPTURE: Luke 3:7-9, 10-14 Pew Bible NT p. 61

INTERLUDE

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, we share with you our tithes and offerings, remembering that you are the source of every good and perfect gift. Remind us to be a thankful people, we pray. Remind us to reach out our hands to those in need so that we may be your covenant partners in all that we give, do, and say on your behalf. In Jesus' 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.

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

***CLOSING HYMN** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You* #4

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Poinsettias

In memory of their parents, Carroll and Shirley Edwards
from Francis, Mark, Janet and Arlene

In memory of Stacy and Amy Gage and Warren and Helene Granz
from Maxine Gage

In memory of Clara Horton
from Michael & Donna Moren

In memory of John Wassenaar and Bill and Catherine Johnson
from Jeff and Janet Johnson

In memory of Roger Moren
from Michael and Donna Moren

In memory of Linda Oehme
from Bob Oehme, Posner Family, Mallozzi Family

In memory of Ramona and Werner Oehme
from Bob Oehme, Posner Family, Mallozzi Family

In memory of Marsha Posner
from Bob Oehme, Posner Family, Mallozzi Family

In memory of Roger B. Storms
from Dale Storms

**In memory of his wife Ruth L. Tucker
and their son Scott Edwin Tucker**
from Edwin J. Tucker

In memory of Miriam H. Wieseman

In memory of Cleave Yeahl
from Betty Yeahl

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WIFI IS AVAILABLE

Network Name: UCC-Guest

Password: uccguest

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

OUR PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY to the family of Jeff Gray, who died on November 12, 2024.

TODAY IS THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING to vote on the 2025 Budget. The meeting will be held in the Nave following the worship service. All members are encouraged to attend.

CANTATA! TODAY - Singers from area churches and the Norwich community will join together on Sunday **December 15, at 4:00 p.m.** to perform *The Star Arising: A Cantata For Christmas*. The program will be directed by Mary Mayo Williams and accompanied by David Burch. According to the composer Joseph Martin, the cantata is a “celebration of light and joy, filled with beloved carol tunes and original seasonal selections, set in a traditional style.” The program is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit the UCC Christmas Fund.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE -TOMORROW - December 16 at 7:00 p.m. at Broad St. United Methodist Church. For many people, the approaching Christmas holiday doesn't bring with it joy and happiness. This service is intended to provide a sacred reflective and safe gathering time and space for people to grieve, yet will focus on the message of comfort and hope that God offers to all of us during difficult times. Everyone within the community is welcome to join us for a quiet spiritual time in the midst of this busy season.

BRING IN NEW MITTENS, HATS AND SCARVES for the Mitten Tree in the Founders Room. After Christmas these items are donated to the Perry Browne School.

THE SHERBURNE COMMUNITY CHORUS is presenting a *Messiah Concert and Sing Along* on **Sunday, December 22** at 3:00 p.m. in the United Church of Christ in Sherburne, NY. There is no charge for the concert but free will donations will be greatly appreciated.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT AND COMMUNION SERVICE - December 24. Special extended prelude will start at 4:45 p.m. Service starts at 5:00 p.m. Children welcome - nursery available.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS NEEDED - In Norwich dates are available from now through 12/23 on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. In Norwich, volunteers can ring outside at Price Chopper or Walmart. Grand Union allows ringers to be in the entryway. In Sherburne, they can ring outside of BigM any weekday - late afternoon to evening, or on Saturdays. Here are the links to sign up.



Norwich: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094FABAB22A1F5C34-53455177-bell>

Sherburne: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094FABAB22A1F5C34-53295014-bell>



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 COMMUNITY DINNER on Sunday, December 22, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. at Broad St. United Methodist Church. Layered chicken, maple carrots, rice, bread & butter, pumpkin bar with cream cheese frosting. Everyone is welcome!

A REMINDER FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY - You may have noticed on the pledge cards this year that offering envelopes are no longer available. If you would still like to use envelopes, feel free to use any envelope to put your donation in. Just include a note on the envelope or the memo line of your check.

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER on a Sunday, please don't take any risks to get to church. You can always tune in to the livestream www.uccnorwichny.org/livestream. If we cancel the service, we will post on Facebook and Instagram and with a message on the church phone.



CALENDAR

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

- 9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
- 10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave - Sunday School grades 3-8, upstairs after Children's Moment
- 11:00 a.m. Budget Vote, Nave
- 11:10 a.m. Coffee Hour
- 4:00 p.m. Christmas Cantata performance, Nave.

MONDAY DECEMBER 16

- 10:00 a.m. Knitting Group, kitchen
- 2:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders Room
- 7:00 p.m. Blue Christmas Service, Broad Street United Methodist Church

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

- 11:30 a.m. *Prepare the Way for the Lord* - Community Advent Book Study at Broad St. United Methodist. Light lunch included.
- 1:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Kitchen
- 4:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen, St. Bart's Parish Center

December 15, 2024

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom
6:10 p.m. Democratic Committee, Founders Room
7:00 p.m. Choir, Nave

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave - Sunday School grades 3-8, upstairs after
Children's Moment
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
12:30 p.m. Youth Group, upstairs
1:00 p.m. Service at Chenango Valley Home
3:00 p.m. Sherburne Community Chorus *Messiah Concert and Sing
Along*, Sherburne UCC. Free and open to the public.
4:30 p.m. Free Community Dinner, Broad St. United Methodist
Church



Link to Online Giving
www.uccnorwichny.org/give

PARTICIPANTS TODAY

Ministers: All the People

Pastor: Rev. James K. Boodley

Liturgist: Ed Tucker

Advent Readers: Ed and Eddie Tucker

Director of Music Ministries: Mary Williams

Organist: David Burch

Instrumentalists: Lily Turnbull, Heavenly Mahaffey, Fiora Breese

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

Nursery: Fiora Breese

Coffee Hour: Jessica Strough

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.



Luke 3:7-14

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What, then, should we do?” ¹¹ In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³ He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

117

Georg Weissel, 1641

Ps. 24:7-10

Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1865; alt.



- 1 Lift up your heads, O might-y gates; be-hold the glo - rious Rul - er waits!
- 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a tem - ple, set a - part
- 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to you; here, Christ, a - bide!
- 4 So come, my Sov - ereign; en - ter in! Let new and no - bler life be - gin;



The Sov - ereign One is draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
From earth - ly use for heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
Let me your in - ner pres - ence feel; your grace and love in me re - veal.
Your Ho - ly Spir - it guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.



Georg Weissel, a Lutheran pastor, served a church in Königsberg, East Prussia. He wrote some twenty hymns, most of them for the great festivals of the church year. This hymn was written for Advent.

Tune: TRURO L.M.
Thomas Williams' Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789

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 (B-flat). 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.

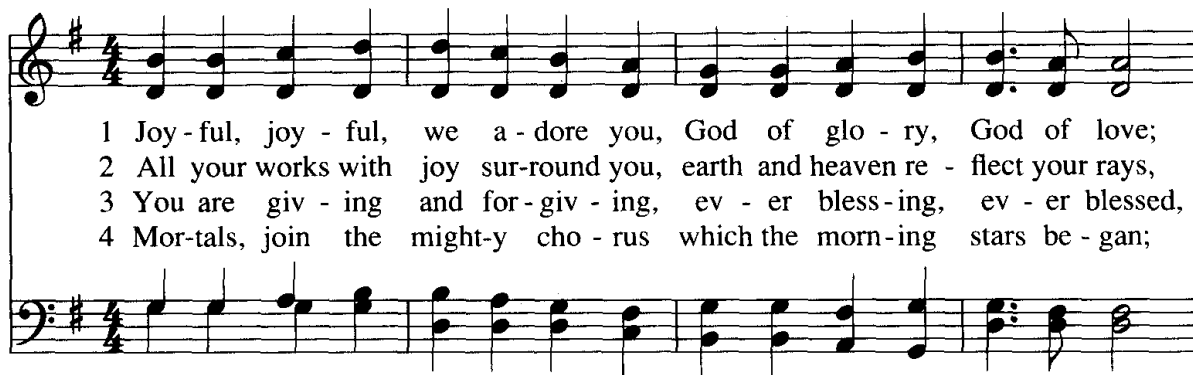
17 F C7 F C7 F
We are the fa - mily of God, we are the prom - ise di - vine.

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.

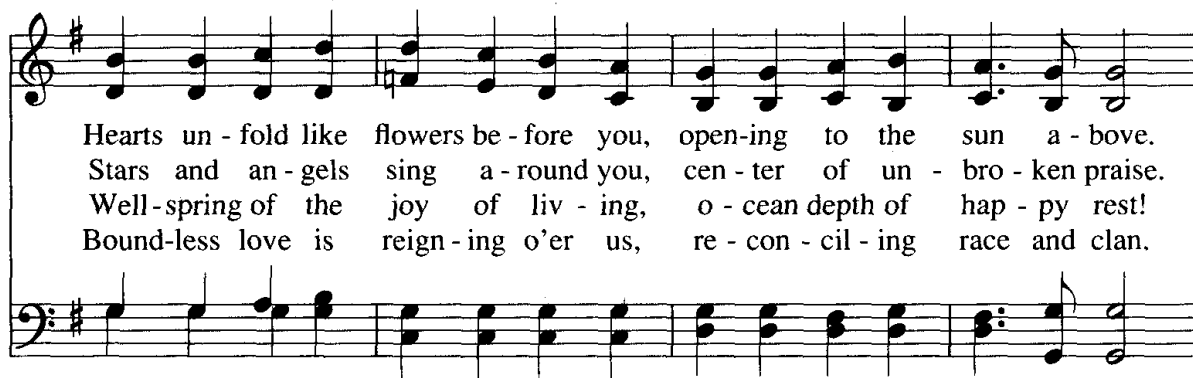
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Ps. 145:10; Isa. 49:13

Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.



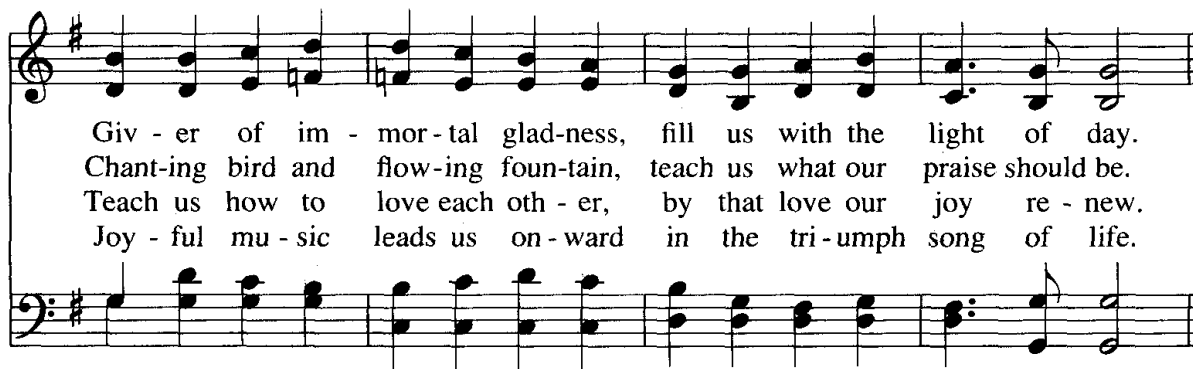
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore you, God of glo - ry, God of love;
 2 All your works with joy sur-round you, earth and heaven re - flect your rays,
 3 You are giv - ing and for-giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blessed,
 4 Mor-tals, join the might-y cho - rus which the morn-ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore you, open-ing to the sun a - bove.
 Stars and an - gels sing a - round you, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
 Bound-less love is reign-ing o'er us, re - con - cil - ing race and clan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the storms of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
 Lov-ing Spir - it, Fa - ther, Moth - er, all who love be - long to you;
 Ev - er sing - ing, move we for - ward, faith - ful in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
 Chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, teach us what our praise should be.
 Teach us how to love each oth - er, by that love our joy re - new.
 Joy - ful mu - sic leads us on - ward in the tri - umph song of life.

Henry van Dyke was a noted church leader, U.S. ambassador, Navy chaplain, and prolific writer. Many people associate this hymn with Beethoven's ninth symphony, but few are aware of the original poem by the German classicist F. Schiller (1759-1805) that inspired Beethoven.

Tune: HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7.D.
 Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824
 Adapt. and harm. Edward Hodges, 1846