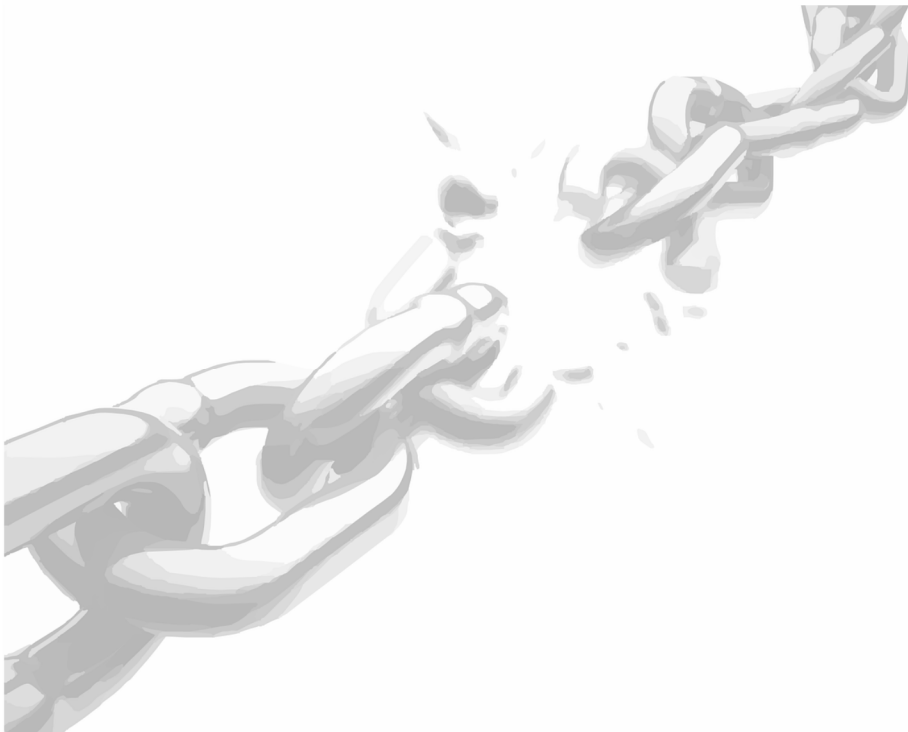

My chains are gone,
I've been set free
My God, My Savior,
has ransomed me.
And like a flood,
His mercy reigns,
Unending love,
amazing grace.

lyric by Chris Tomlin





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



An Open and Affirming Church

May 29, 2022

10:00 a.m.

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Give Me Jesus* Traditional American Spiritual
arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME

(Please sign the attendance pad found in the pew.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."

ALL: Let everyone who is thirsty come.

ONE: Let everyone who hears say, "Come."

ALL: Let everyone who is thirsty come.

ONE: Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

ALL: Let everyone who is thirsty come.

ONE: Come to the tree of life, the Alpha and the Omega.

ALL: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

*Please stand if you are able.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

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INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN

Enter Rejoice and Come In
(Tune: ENTER, REJOICE)

#73

TIME OF SHARING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

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.

INCLUSIVE CHURCH PRAYER

Living God,
Mystery of love,
given and received before all foundations,
you wound our hearts,
hardened to division and indifference:
deepen our yearning for unity
and enrich our love for diversity
that the whole creation
might share in your communion;
through Jesus Christ, who makes known your love.
Amen.

TEACHING THE WAY OF JESUS

***HYMN**

Called as Partners in Christ's Service
(Tune: BEECHER)

#495 (v. 1)

PASTORAL BLESSING OF PEACE

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

ALL: And also with you.

DISCIPLESHIP PLEDGE (An Offertory Prayer)

ONE: We love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

ALL: We pledge our whole selves to God.

ONE: We love our neighbors as ourselves.

ALL: We pledge to do justice as Christ's ambassadors of reconciliation.

ONE: We love one another as Jesus loves us.

ALL: We pledge to be and become Christ's Beloved Community in our life together.

ONE: We make disciples by teaching and modeling how to follow Jesus' Way of Love.

ALL: We pledge to be Jesus' disciples sharing Jesus' Way of Love in the way we live our lives and practice our faith.

We will not be passing the offering plates. Instead, they are located at both doors for your convenience as you enter or exit the Nave.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 16:16-34
John 17:20-26

Pew Bible NT p. 142
Pew Bible NT p. 116

CHOIR ANTHEM

God Will Take Care of You

Civilla D. Martin, 1904
Tune: MARTIN C.M.
by W. Stillman Martin, 1905

SERMON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INTERLUDE *There I Will Find Comfort*

Janet Vogt

AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

United Church of Christ Statement of Faith in the form of a doxology

ONE: We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,

ALL: God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

ONE: You call the worlds into being,

ALL: create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

ONE: You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

ALL: You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

ONE: In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot,

ALL: conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

ONE: You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,

ALL: creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

ONE: You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others,

ALL: to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

ONE: You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,

ALL: courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

ONE: Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.

ALL: Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS/CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

*CLOSING HYMN

Thank Our God for Brothers, Sisters #397
(Tune: PLEADING SAVIOR)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Be Thou My Vision* Bethany K. Smith
Tune: Slane, Traditional Irish Melody

Bulletin Notes:

The *Inclusive Church Prayer* comes from *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* by Steven Shakespeare, Church Publishing: New York, 2009.

Questions for Reflection

What chains bind you or the people of your community at this time in your life? Where each day do you notice the freedom of Christ working to break the chains apart?

Household Prayer: Morning

Good and gracious God, we rise with the morning light to give you thanks for rest and dreams, for warmth and safety, for the delight we have again today in a life filled with your goodness. Keep us in your care this day that we may walk in your path, glad for our friends, praying for our enemies, and eager to hear your Word; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Merciful God, for all that we have done and failed to do this day we turn to you for respite. Forgive us for having shunned your desires; rejoice with us over moments that have filled us with joy. Bless your people in every land with peace. Protect us now through the night that we may wake again to praise your name. Let the Holy Spirit abide in this house. Amen.

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS IN MINISTRY OF SERVICE:

Interim Pastor: **Rev. John Steitz**

Director of Music Ministries: **Mary Williams**

Organist: **Jason Handy**

Director of Children's/Youth Ministries: **Linda Oehme**

Provisional Dir.of Inclusive Church Ministries: **Braderick Morrison**

Sunday Sexton: **Elsbeth Hunter**

Live Stream: **Jennifer Mallozzi, Chris McSweeney**

Usher: **Linda Oehme**

Liturgist: **Bob Oehme**

*The plants on the altar are in
in memory of the teachers and students that died at
Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas
from Norma Kinney and Judy Smith.
There are two larger plants and 19 smaller plants
representing the 2 teachers and the 19 children
whose lives were so tragically taken.*

Watch a live stream of our service Sundays at 10:00 a.m. at
www.uccnorwichny.org/live-stream-2

Past worship services can be viewed at www.uccnorwichny.org/sermons

MINISTERS: All the People

INTERIM PASTOR: Rev. John Steitz, 215-820-1650 (cell)

MODERATOR: John Kolb

CHAIR OF DEACONS: Mary Williams

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES: Mary Williams

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S/YOUTH MINISTRIES: Linda Oehme

PARISH COORDINATOR: Cheri Oakley

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT: Jennifer Mallozzi

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS - By appointment only.

CONTACT:

Address: 11 West Main St., Norwich NY 13815

Telephone: 607-334-3434

E-mail: office@uccnorwichny.org

Web site: www.uccnorwichny.org

facebook

May 29, 2022

UCC Norwich Reopening Guidelines

Revised 03/31/22

COVID Protocols that have been modified:

- Face coverings in the church building will be optional
- Social distancing of 6 feet is still recommended.
- Childcare will be available again beginning in September 2022
- Parishioners may choose their own seating in the Nave. Distancing between non-family groups is still recommended.
- Hymnals, Pew Bibles will be accessible in the pew racks and may be used.
- Congregational singing is now permitted.
- Prayer requests may be spoken during the worship service or may be submitted in the prayer basket. (Usher will bring microphone around to congregation. Microphone cover will be supplied)
- Coffee Hour will resume April 24, 2022 and will be hosted and coordinated by the Deacons.

COVID Protocols that remain in place:

- Passing of the peace will continue to be suspended at this time.
- Offerings will be collected by placing your envelope in a basket upon entering or exiting the Nave.
- Communion will be offered in the pews using individually portioned elements.
- Hearing assistive devices will be available for those that need them. You will receive the headset in a bag. Please write your name on the bag and store the headset in the same bag for use during future services.
- Hand sanitizing stations are located near the Nave entrance hall and in each pew. Please wash your hands or use sanitizing stations frequently.
- We ask that if you are not feeling well and /or may be exhibiting cold or flu-like symptoms, that you refrain from attending until you feel better.
- Disinfection Plan: our Custodian will disinfect all high touch surfaces, including rest rooms and seating areas, before and/or after weekly services.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CHURCH OFFICE staff will not be available on Monday, May 30 due to the Memorial Day Holiday.

PRAYER CIRCLE

Join us for prayer each week Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Sign on to the Prayer Circle:

- to request a prayer or to pray for others.
- to participate in a short Bible reading and devotional from *The Upper Room* or *These Days*.

To request a prayer or get access to the Zoom link, email the church office or contact one of these Prayer Circle members: Karen Mallozzi, Pat Burke, Mary Williams.

PLEASE REMEMBER to sign the attendance pads found in each pew and pass them on to others in your row. If you've already given us your contact information, you don't need to fill that in each week unless there is a change.

REMINDER: Deadline to get your Annual Report in to the church office is May 31. Still needed: Executive Council, Trustees, Deacons, Search, Inclusive Church Ministries. Thank you.

POSITION AVAILABLE: Music Ministry Associate

(beginning August 1, 2022) We are seeking a talented musician to enrich the worship experience and support the music ministries of our church. Skills needed: piano or organ skills, willingness to perform special music, participation in church music ministries including community outreach. Send letter of interest and resume to the church office (11 West Main St., Norwich NY 13815 or office@uccnorwichny.org).

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE - We support music education and have a scholarship program for music lessons available. If you need help paying for music lessons, please see Meena Conant or contact the church office.

IF YOU NEED HELP with something, please reach out to the church office, a Deacon or Pastor John. We're here to help each other.

CALENDAR

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

SUNDAY, MAY 29

9:00 a.m. Sunday School, Zoom

10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave

or <www.uccnorwichny.org/live-stream-2>

6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Forum, Zoom

MONDAY MAY 30 - Memorial Day

Church Office Closed

10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom

TUESDAY, MAY 31

10:00 a.m. Worship Meeting, Zoom

1:00 p.m. Quilting Circle, Kitchen

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1

10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom

3:30 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Zoom

THURSDAY, JUNE 2

12:30 p.m. S. Marson tutoring

FRIDAY, JUNE 3

10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom

3:30 p.m. J. Handy, Lessons

SUNDAY, JUNE 5 - Pentecost

10:00 a.m. Intergenerational Worship/communion, Nave

or <www.uccnorwichny.org/live-stream-2>

Strengthen the Church Offering

6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Forum, Zoom