

United Church of Christ Norwich, New York



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



### **An Open and Affirming Church**

December 8, 2024 10:00 a.m Second Sunday of Advent - Peace

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

**PRELUDE** 

**WELCOME** 

ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **GATHERING**

# **CEREMONY OF THE ADVENT CANDLES Second Sunday of Advent – Peace**

#### **CANTICLE**

Adapted from A Morning Star Will Rise by Joseph Martin

People, search the eastern sky.

Soon a Morning Star will rise.

God is sending us a sign.

Soon a Morning Star will rise.

God will fill the earth with wonder.

Peace will rule in ev'ry heart.

Love will shake the world like thunder.

We are praying for the Morning Star.

#### LIGHTING OF THE SECOND CANDLE OF ADVENT

<sup>\*</sup>Please stand in body or in spirit.

#### UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of all time, as we gather to seek guidance for our lives, we pray that you might send your peace as we begin a new year in the life of your church. Let us embrace the opportunities to embrace peace, anticipating the light you send us in your son, Jesus, as we sing and pray the good news of the Messiah's coming. In his name we pray. Amen.

#### **CANTICLE**

Adapted from A Morning Star Will Rise Joseph Martin

\*OPENING HYMN Now Bless the God of Israel #110

#### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Ericka Tyler

Insert

#### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel with O Come, Divine Messiah Arranged by Stephen DeCesare

Duet: Averie Fink, trumpet; Liam Hunter, horn

#### **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

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

#### TIME OF SHARING

**SERMON** *Investing in Peace* Rev. James K. Boodley **SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 6:21 Pew Bible NT p. 6

<sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

#### INTERLUDE

#### INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

#### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O generous God, we come before you with our tithes and offerings for it is from your hand of bounty we repeatedly receive your blessings. Through these gifts, remind us to always reach out to those in need and to make us your covenant partners in peace once again. 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

Comfort, Comfort My People

#101

BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE** 

#### **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.

**THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** to vote on the 2025 Budget will be held next Sunday, December 15 in the Nave following the worship service. All members are encouraged to attend. Questions can be directed to Pete Williams, Moderator.

CANTATA! NEXT WEEK! 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.

**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.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE - 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.

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.

**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, pupkin bar with cream cheese frosting. Everyone is welcome!

#### COMMUNITY ADVENT STUDY CONTINUES THIS WEEK.

**What:** Prepare the Way for the Lord: Advent and the

Message of John the Baptist

When: Tuesdays Dec. 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)

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

#### 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.

**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 <a href="www.uccnorwichny.org/livestream">www.uccnorwichny.org/livestream</a>. 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 8**

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. Free 2B Me Youth Group, upstairs

(Grades 5-12)

3:00 p.m. Rehearsal for the Christmas Cantata

#### **MONDAY DECEMBER 9**

9:30 a.m. AARP tax Training, Founders Room

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

#### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10**

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

5:00 p.m. Pride Alliance Meeting, Founders Room

#### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11**

9:00 a.m. AARP tax Training, Founders Room

10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom

7:00 p.m. Choir, Nave

#### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12**

12:00 p.m. Piecemakers Monthly Meeting, Founders Room, Kitchen

#### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14**

10:00 a.m. Cantata Dess Rehearsal, Nave

#### **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. Coffee Hour

4:00 p.m. Christmas Cantata performance, Nave.



#### **PARTICIPANTS TODAY**

Ministers: All the People

Pastor: Rev. James K. Boodley

Liturgist:

Advent Readers: The Kolb Familiy

**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 **Nursery:** Fiora Breese

Coffee Hour:

#### 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.

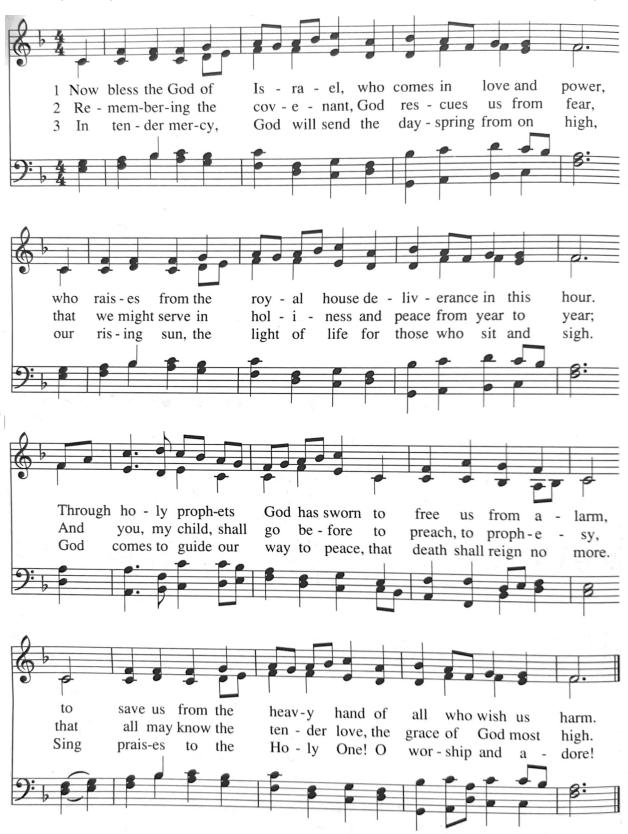






Luke 1:68-79; Ps. 18:1-3; Isa. 9:2-7

Ruth Duck, 1985



This text by United Church of Christ clergywoman Ruth Duck is a paraphrase of the "Benedictus," which is often sung at morning prayer. She came to appreciate daily prayer while studying at the University of Notre Dame.

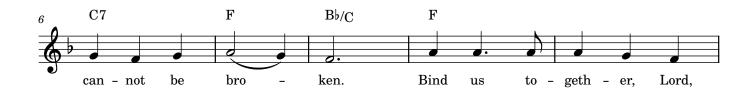
Tune: FOREST GREEN C.M.D. Traditional English melody Harm, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

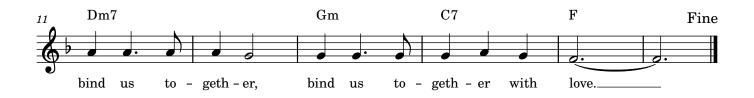
# Bind Us Together

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Words and Music by BOB GILLMAN











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# Comfort, Comfort O My People

Isa. 40:1-8

Johannes Olearius, 1671 Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.



Written for John the Baptist's Day, June 24, this hymn clearly reflects the Isaiah text. Johannes Olearius, a Lutheran pastor, held a faculty appointment at Wittenberg University as well as church administration positions in his region.

Tune: PSALM 42 8.7.8.7.7.8.8. (FREU DICH SEHR) Trente quatre Pseaumes, Geneva, 1551