



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



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



An Open and Affirming Church

December 22, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CEREMONY OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Fourth Sunday of Advent – Love

CANTICLE

Adapted from A Morning Star Will Rise by Joseph Martin

Come, O Come, Emmanuel.
Soon a Morning Star will rise.
Ransom captive Israel.
Soon a Morning Star will rise.
Love will fill our hearts with singing.
See the glo'rious star arise.
Ev'ry hill and valley ringing.
We are longing for the Morning Star.

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH CANDLE OF ADVENT

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

O God, give us hearts for the gospel and lead us to your true path, encouraging us to do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly with you. As we follow your example for us, we draw closer to an authentic, blessed Christmas celebration with you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

CANTICLE

Adapted from A Morning Star Will Rise by Joseph Martin

***OPENING HYMN** *We Hail You God's Anointed* #104

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Ericka Tyler

SPECIAL MUSIC

The First Noel arranged by Molly Ijames
Bella Johnson and Dave Burch, piano duet

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 *The Angel & Mary, Mary & Elizabeth*
Rev. James K. Boodley

SCRIPTURE Luke 1:26-38, 46-56 Pew Bible NT p. 58

INTERLUDE

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Eternal God, you have a mission for the world you created. Help us know our place in your grand scheme. Bless these tithes and offerings, we pray, as signs and symbols of our desire to share the love you first shared with us through your son, Jesus. 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.

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

***CLOSING HYMN** *O How Shall I Receive You* #102

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.

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.

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Closed on 12/25, 12/26 and 1/1

Open by appointment only December 20 - January 3

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* today 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.

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.

CALENDAR

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

- 9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
- 10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave - *Christmas Fund Offering*
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

MONDAY DECEMBER 23

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 - Christmas Eve

- 4:45 p.m. Prelude
- 5:00 p.m. Candlelight service with communion, Nave
Nursery available. *Christmas Fund Offering*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25 - Christmas Day **Church Office Closed**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26 **Church Office Closed**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

- 9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
- 10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
- 12:30 p.m. Youth Group, upstairs

Poinsettias

In memory of Frank and Maude Dolgos and Diane Somich
from Joe and Deb Phelps

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 Allan E. Sawyer
from Elissa Sawyer

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

December 22, 2024

Candlelight Service

December 24

4:45 p.m. Special Extended Prelude

5:00 p.m. Service with Communion & Candlelight



Link to Online Giving
www.uccnorwichny.org/give

PARTICIPANTS TODAY

Ministers: All the People

Pastor: Rev. James K. Boodley

Liturgist: Mary Williams

Advent Readers: Jessica and Melodie Posner

Usher: Colleen Johnson

Director of Music Ministries: Mary Williams

Organist: David Burch

Instrumentalist: Bella Johnson

Director of Children and Youth Ministries: Ericka Tyler

Livestream Director: Jennifer Mallozzi

Livestream Staff: Chris McSweeney, Jessica Strough, Liam Hunter

Sunday Sexton: Ericka Tyler

Nursery: Fiora Breese

Coffee Hour: Deb Phelps

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- 1p.m.)

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



Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Luke 1:46-56

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;

⁵⁰ indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and
then returned to her home.

We Hail You God's Anointed

104

James Montgomery, 1821; alt.

Ps. 72



1 We hail you God's a - noint - ed, the long - a - wait - ed One!
2 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;



Hail in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!
and joy and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth.



You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free;
Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald, go,



to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
and righ - teous - ness, in foun - tains, from hill to val - ley flow.

Written as a Christmas hymn for the Moravian settlement in Yorkshire, England, this hymn has enjoyed widespread popularity from the beginning. It is characteristic of Montgomery's deep faith and passion for social justice.

Tune: ELLACOMBE C.M.D.
Gesangbuch der herzoglichen Wirtembergischen katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784

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Bind Us Together

©1977 THANKYOU MUSIC (PRS)

Words and Music by BOB GILLMAN

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._____

O How Shall I Receive You

102

Paul Gerhardt, 1653

Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, and others; alt.



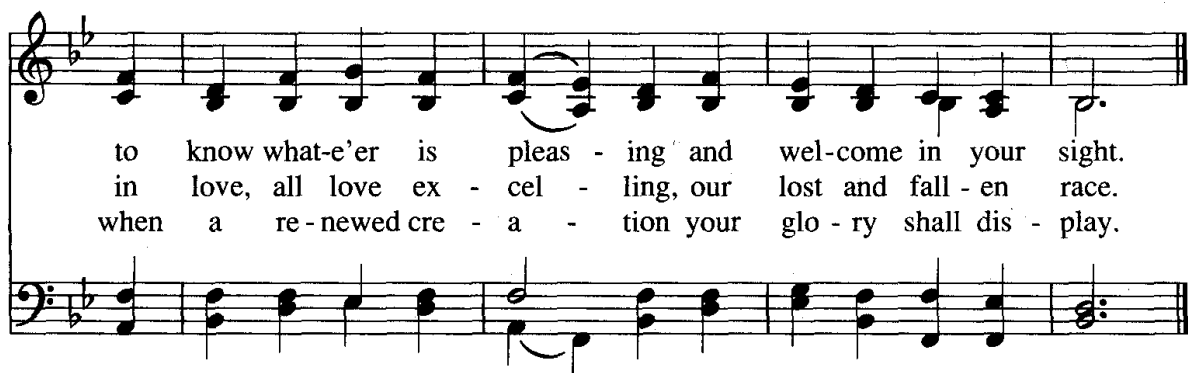
1 O how shall I re - ceive you, how meet you on your way,
2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you un - to me;
3 You come, O Christ, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good - will,



blessed hope of ev - ery peo - ple, my soul's de - light and stay?
your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.



O Je - sus, Je - sus, give me now by your own pure light,
O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day



to know what-e'er is pleas - ing and wel - come in your sight.
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.
when a re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

As a German Lutheran pastor serving during the Thirty Years' War, Paul Gerhardt's trials were legion. In the midst of it all, he composed more than a hundred hymns, among them some of the finest and most beloved in Christian hymnody.

Tune: ST. THEODULPH 7.6.7.6.D.
(VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN)
Melchior Teschner, 1615