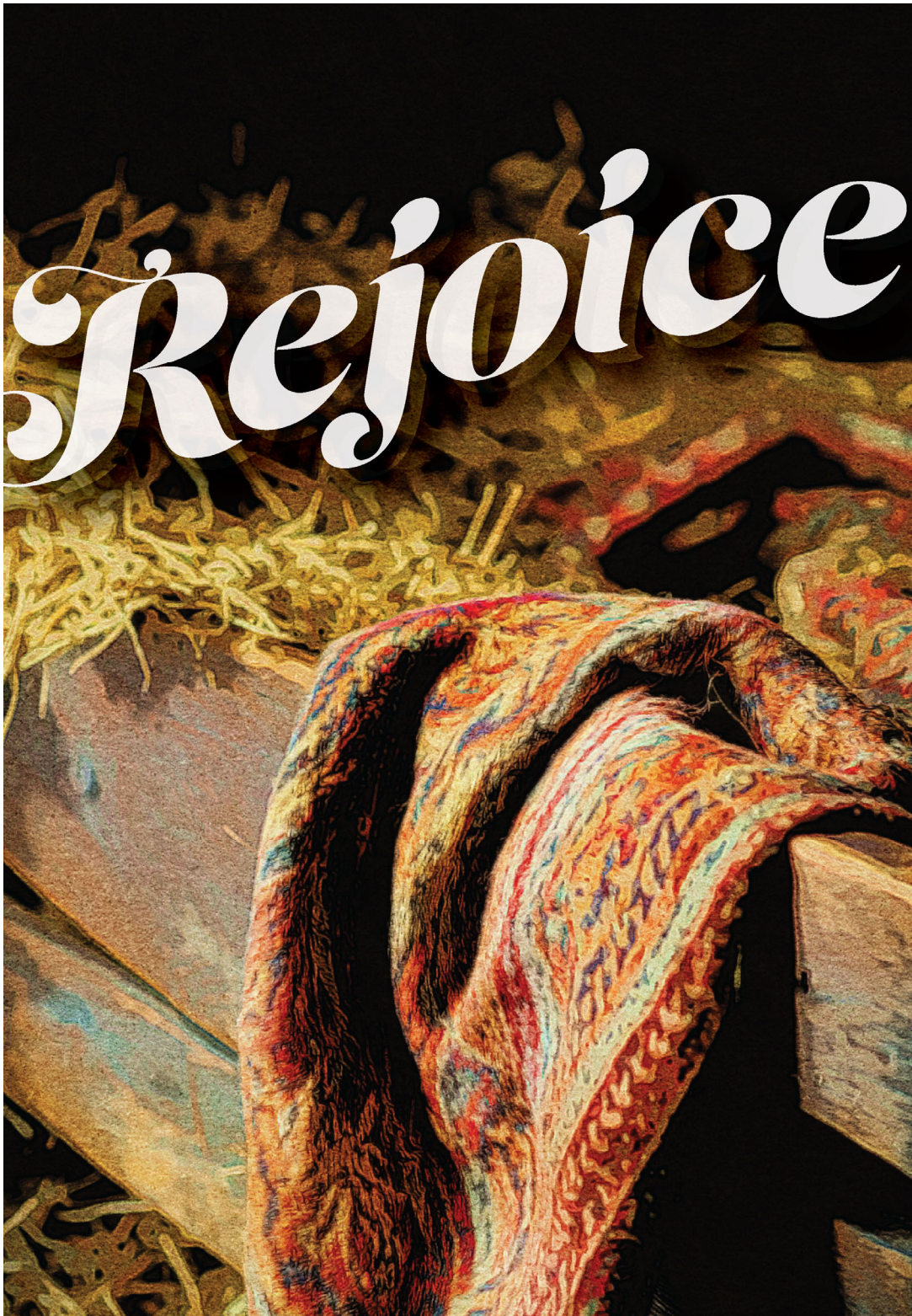


Rejoice



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



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



An Open and Affirming Church

December 24, 2024

5:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve

PRELUDE

On Christmas Night, All Christians Sing

Tune: SUSSEX CAROL
by Luke Wadding (1628-1691)
arranged by Molly Ijames

Piano duet: Dave Burch and Mary Williams

O Holy Night

Michael Moren, soloist

words by Placide Cappeau
music by Adolphe Adam

Silent Night

Duet: Bob Oehme, piano and Dave Burch, organ

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CEREMONY OF LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CANTICLE

Adapted from *A Morning Star Will Rise*

Joseph Martin

Sing and shout, the day is here!

Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Joy will wipe away each tear.

Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Let the Earth break forth with singing.

Ev'ry nation near and far.

Ev'ry hill and valley ringing.

Christ now with us is the shining star.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Enlightening God, grant us the wisdom to be light-bearers, sisters and brothers of Jesus the Christ, bringing his light to all places of

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

darkness, anxiety, fear, and conflict. Grant us the strength to give birth to deeds of light, to nurture God's light in others, and to proclaim the Holy Spirit's light of truth in all that we do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

CANTICLE Adapted from *A Morning Star Will Rise* Joseph Martin

***OPENING HYMN** *Joy to the World* #132

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Ericka Tyler

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

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-7 Pew Bible NT p. 59

ANTHEM

Carols of Hope, Songs of Light incorporating How Bright Appears the Morning Star and Joy To The World

Original words and music by Joseph M. Martin

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

(Tonight's offering is for The Christmas Fund, which cares for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the UCC.)

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.

***OFFERTORY HYMN**

O Come, All You Faithful

#135 (vs.1, 3, 4)

SERMON *The Shepherd's Delight*

Rev. James K. Boodley

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:8-20

Pew Bible NT p. 59

COMMUNION HYMN

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

#345 (vs.1 & 2)

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Matthew 26:17-19, 26-29

Pew Bible NT p. 30

Pastoral Prayer

December 24, 2024

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 *Silent Night, Holy Night* #134
Leona Tyler, soloist German verse by soloist, v. 1 by choir
vs. 2-3 congregation joins

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



PARTICIPANTS TODAY

Ministers: All the People

Pastor: Rev. James K. Boodley

Liturgist: Donna Moren

Candle Lighting: The Phelps Family: Joe, Deb, Marissa, Briana

Usher: Elissa Sawyer

Director of Music Ministries: Mary Williams

Organist: David Burch

Musicians: Robert Oehme, Mary Williams

Soloists: Michael Moren, Leona Tyler

Choir (scheduled to participate): Brenda Franklin, Kathy Glavin,
Jen Mallozzi, Donna Moren, Michael Moren, Bob Oehme, Amy Rogers,
Destinie Smith, Jessica Strough, Ericka Tyler, Pete Williams

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

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

11 West Main St., Norwich NY 13815

607-334-3434 - office@uccnorwichny.org - www.uccnorwichny.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

By appointment through January 6.

Closed 12/25, 12/26, 1/1

WIFI

Network Name: UCC-Guest

Password: uccguest



Online Giving



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

Please remember to take your poinsettia after the service.

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Luke 2:8-14

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

Luke 2:15-20

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Joy to the World!

132

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Ps. 98:4-9; Luke 2:11-15

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth its
2 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 Christ rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

prais - es bring; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Christ room,
songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
na - tions prove The glo - ries of God's righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
and won - ders of God's love, and won - ders of God's

and heaven and na - ture sing, and
re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
and won - ders of God's love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of God's love. •

heaven and na - ture sing,
peat the sound - ing joy,
won - ders of God's love,

Stanza 1 may be sung, "Joy to the world! the Sovereign comes: . . ."

Isaac Watts, an English Congregationalist, freely paraphrased
Old Testament psalms to glorify Christ and here develops a
hymn of advent and nativity from a psalm.

Tune: ANTIOCH C.M.
Lowell Mason, 1836

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.

Adeste Fideles

(O Come, All You Faithful)

Luke 2:11-15; John 1:14

Latin, 18th century; attrib. to John Francis Wade
Transl. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others; alt.

1 A - des - te, fi - de - les, lae - ti tri - um - phan - tes; ve -
1 O come, all you faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 God of true God . . . Light of true Light . . .
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 A - men, Lord, we greet you, born this hap - py morn - ing;

ni - te, ve - ni - te in Beth - le - hem.
come now, O come now to Beth - le - hem.
born of the Vir - gin's womb in hu - man form;
sing, all you mes - sen - gers of heaven - ly love:
Je - sus to you shall all glo - ry be given;

Na - tum vi - de - te Re - gem an - ge - lo - rum.
Come and be - hold the rul - er of all an - gels:
Tru - ly our God, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed:
"Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est":
Word of our God . . . now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come in ad - o - ra - tion, O come in ad - o - ra - tion,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, Do - mi - num.
O come in ad - o - ra - tion: Christ is Lord!

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

*Isa. 6:1-3; 1 Tim. 6:13-15**From the Liturgy of St. James, 4th century
Transl. Gerard Moultrie, 1864; alt.*

1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
 2 Mon - arch great, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on
 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard
 4 At Christ's feet the six - winged ser - aphs, cher - u - bim with

trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
 earth Christ stood, Lord of all, in hu - man ves - ture—
 on the way, As the Light of light de - scend - ing
 sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the Pres - ence,

for with bless - ing in the hand, Christ our God to
 in the bod - y and the blood— Christ will give to
 from the realms of end - less day, That the powers of
 as with cease - less voice they cry, Al - le - lu - ia,

earth de - scend - ing, our full hom - age to de - mand.
 all the faith - ful bread of life for heav - en - ly food.
 hell may van - ish as the shad - ows clear a - way.
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, God most high!

This Greek hymn comes from the Liturgy of St. James of Jerusalem. It has been paraphrased by Gerard Moultrie, a priest of the Church of England. The French folk melody first appeared with these words in The English Hymnal (1906).

Tune: PICARDY 8.7.8.7.8.7.
 French carol melody, 17th century
 Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Silent Night, Holy Night

#134

Joseph Mohr, 1818

Transl. John F. Young, c. 1863; alt.

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake at the sight,
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Child of God, love's pure light,

Round you vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild,
Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing Al - le - lu - ia;
Ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face bring the dawn of re - deem - ing grace;

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born, Christ, the Sav - ior is born.
Je - sus, Christ, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Christ, at Thy birth.

This beloved carol was created when, the day before Christmas, the organ broke down in an Alpine village church. The priest, Joseph Mohr, gave a new poem to the organist, Franz Gruber, to be set to music. Gruber composed the music on the guitar, and it was sung with guitar on Christmas.

Tune: STILLE NACHT Irr.
Franz Gruber, 1818