



WELCOME to worship at United Church of Christ in Norwell.

Whether you are a member or affiliate member of our church, a frequent attendee, or a first time visitor, we are truly glad you are here and invite you to participate in the many opportunities for worship, growth and service. We hope you will find your time here to be meaningful and the congregation welcoming. At the conclusion of the postlude, please join us for conversation and refreshments in Fellowship Hall.

LISTENING DEVICES FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED, LARGE PRINT BULLETINS, AND LARGE PRINT HYMNALS ARE AVAILABLE. An usher or deacon would be happy to assist you with any of these needs. A CD of this morning's service will be available for \$2.00 in the sound room (back left corner of the sanctuary), or you may borrow a copy through the church library.

Child care for infants through grade 2 is available downstairs in rooms 10 and 7.

Activity bags are available for children to use in the library (a Deacon or usher can assist you). Audio of the worship service can be heard in the library as well. Please note that a parent must remain with their child(ren) in the library to supervise them.

Audio of sermons are available online: uccnorwell.org.

United Church of Christ, Norwell

We are a Christ-centered inclusive community called to ministry.

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www.uccnorwell.org ❖ email: office@uccnorwell.org

Ministers to the World		All the Congregation
Ministers to the Congregation		All the Staff
Rev. Leanne S. Walt	Lead Pastor	lwalt@uccnorwell.org, ext. 12
Rev. Deborah Spratley	Associate Pastor	dspratley@uccnorwell.org, ext. 11
Kristen Albert	Child Care Coordinator	contact Cathy below
Cathy Benedict	Minister of Children's Education	cbenedict@uccnorwell.org, ext. 25
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Danielle Biggins	New Nursery School Director	newnurseryschooldirector@gmail.com 781-659-2535

United Church of Christ, Norwell

An Open and Affirming Church

October 22, 2017

10:00 a.m.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

*Standing to praise God

Let's Go, Let's Grow, Let's Serve the Lord!

WELCOME

Rev. Leanne Walt

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*HYMN 609

Take My Life v. 1, 4, 5, 6

HENDON

TIME OF RECONCILIATION

Call to Confession

Michelle Glidden

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Leader: Lord, we confess we do not always live expectantly.

At times we succumb to the belief that our personal circumstances and the state of the world cannot change.

People: Remind us that Yours is a hope that does not disappoint.

Leader: At times we passively wait for *You* to change our circumstances rather than proactively working toward transforming our perspective.

People: Help us to recognize what's to be found in what has been lost. Help us to recognize our own hands as Your hope in the world.

Leader: At times we are swayed by the wayward powers of this world.

People: Guide us toward living with intention and with purpose. Remind us of the light You have given us to shine. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

Sisters and brothers in Christ, take hold of the gladness and joy evident in the promise of our faith: Nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*HYMN

Children of God, Rise Up and Sing

Avery Harken

WE RECEIVE GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE Matthew 25:1-13
SERMON *Building the Kingdom: It's Always Too Early to Quit* Rev. Leanne Walt
ANTHEM *Come, We That Love the Lord* Arr. Linda Lamb
Celestial Ringers

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Michelle Glidden
Response *While We Are Waiting, Come* Don Cason
While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR RESOURCES

Offertory *I'm Gonna Live so God Can Use Me* SPIRITUAL
Arr. Karen Harvey

Please sign and pass the Red Book (in aisle seats) so we may greet each other by name.
If you are with us for the first time, please add your contact information.

*Doxology *LASST UNS ERFREUEN*
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; One God, Triune, whom we adore:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Prayer of Dedication

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Invitation
Litany of Intent
One: Friends in Christ, we are received into the church through the
Sacrament of Baptism.
**Many: These people among us have found nurture and support in the
midst of this community of Christ.**

One: They have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptism and to
claim, in our presence, their commitment to joining with the
members of the United Church of Christ in Norwell in following
Jesus Christ.

Many: Thanks be to God!

One: They are here, as we are here, to grow in relationship to Jesus and
to strive to love God with all our hearts, and with our souls, and with all
our minds.

**Many: They are here, as we are here, to strive to love our neighbors
as we love ourselves.**

One: They are here, as we are here, to shine their Christ-light into the
world for all to see. Friends who are joining, we rejoice in your
journey of faith that has brought you to this time and place.

**Many: We give thanks for every community of faith that has been
your spiritual home.**

Membership Promises

*Congregational Welcome

**We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. We promise
you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the
church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue
to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of a
Christ who is alive and well and at work in the world.**

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

WE DEPART TO SERVE

*HYMN *This Little Light of Mine* SPIRITUAL

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (seated) *This Little Light of Mine* Arr. Karen Harvey
Karen Harvey, piano Brad Moses, bass Jack Spurr, guitar