

*Doxology

Pilgrim Hymnal 514

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

*Hymn: "God is Here! As We Your People Meet"

NCH 70

*The Benediction

Postlude

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Please join us after the service for refreshments & conversation in the church parlor.

We welcome our new members to Park Church: Nancy DeBesse, Deb Gardner, Donna Hughes, Clayton and Jean Weed.

Neighbors in Need mission begins today through September 28. Please pick up a special collection envelope to support this annual mission. Speak with Dennis Mooney for more information.

Subscribe to our weekly email, 'Park Bench' by emailing the office [parkchurchnorwich@gmail.com](mailto:parkchurchnorwich@gmail.com)

The ministries of Park Congregational Church are supported by the generosity of our members and friends. You can make a secure online donation here:



Park Congregational Church, 283 Broadway, Norwich, CT 06360  
(860) 887-3747 [www.parkchurchnorwich.org](http://www.parkchurchnorwich.org)

Office is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am-3pm, and by appointment

# PARK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ --*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

Sunday, September 14, 2025



Photo by Pierre Bamin, Unsplash

Reverend Erica Wimber Avena, Interim Minister  
Dr. Laura Hibbard, Music Director

Welcome Visitors, Friends, and Guests!

*Please make your offering at the offering table on your way in or out of the sanctuary, or use the QR code for online giving. Thank you for joining us.*

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship Mark Mikkelson, lay reader

God calls to the lost, the least, and all who long for home;  
**God calls when we wander from the path chosen for us and waste the gifts we have been given.**  
God calls and welcomes us back;  
**Let us celebrate and rejoice in God’s presence; let us worship God.**

\*Hymn: “Be Now My Vision” NCH 451 v 1-3

\*Opening Prayer

\*Gloria Patri Pilgrim Hymnal 513

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

Welcoming New Members

Covenant of Faith from the Park Church Constitution (Article V)

I confess my faith in Jesus Christ and seek to follow in the way of Christ. I will strive to lead an authentic Christian life. I will take to heart the commandments which Jesus taught: to love the Lord my God with all my heart, and with all my soul, and with all my mind, and to love my neighbor as myself.

*\* Please rise, if you are able.*

Covenant of Worship and Service

I promise to give of myself to God’s service and to be a full member of this church. I will strive to be intentional on my life’s journey to be transformed by the power of God’s love. I will strive to be mindful of the welfare of my fellow members, to walk with them in faithfulness and Christian love. I promise that, as far as I am able, to attend the services of this church regularly, observe its sacraments, and to give my time, talent, and financial support to make it a fruitful body of Christ.

Congregation’s response:

**We welcome you with joy to the life of Park Church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hope and work 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 our risen Savior.**

Special Music: “Grant Us Peace” by Michael Scott

Old Testament Reading Psalm 51:1-10 Bible p. 509

\*Hymn “Softly and Tenderly” NCH 449 v 1, 2, 4  
*During the music, prayer cards will be collected.*

New Testament Reading: Luke 15:1-10 Bible p. 952

Sermon Lost and Found in the Kingdom of God

Special Music: “Sweet By and By” by Joseph P. Webster

Sharing Joys and Concerns, and Pastoral 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**