

*Doxology

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

Pilgrim Hymnal 514

*Hymn "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" NCH 547 v. 1,2,5

*The Benediction

Postlude

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

**Walktober No King Walking Tour of Bean Hill** - Join Dale Plummer today, Sunday, October 26, 2:00 p.m. for a walking tour of the Bean Hill National Register Historic District, which is one of the most endangered historic districts in Norwich. It is one of the places where revolutionary ideas flourished early, and antislavery sentiment took root. The walk begins at the Bean Hill green, 191 West Town St.

Subscribe to our weekly email, 'Park Bench' by emailing the office  
[officemanager@parkchurchnorwich1874.org](mailto:officemanager@parkchurchnorwich1874.org)

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



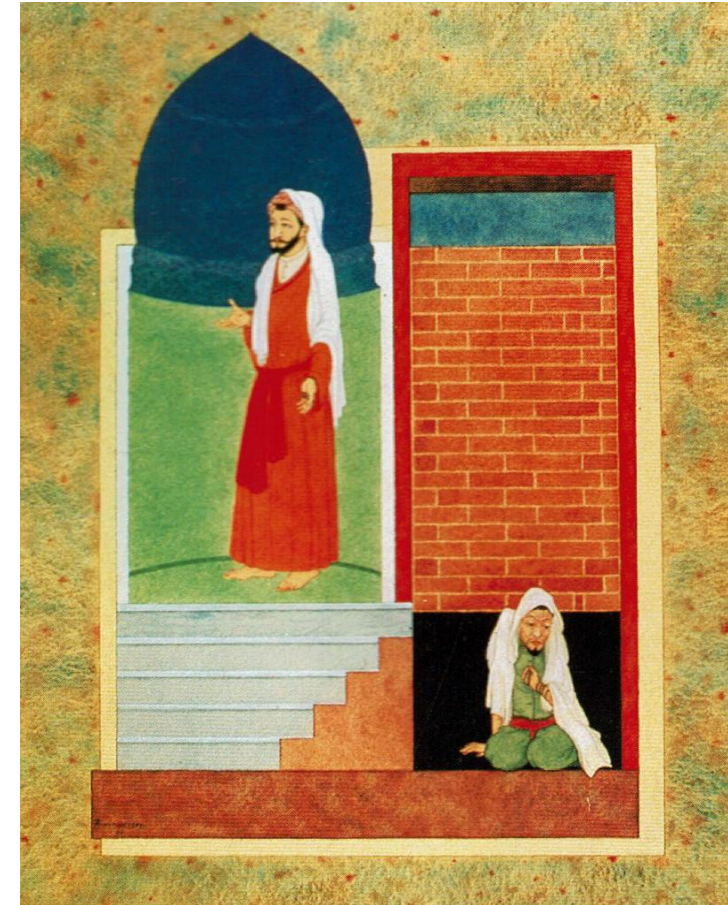
Park Congregational Church, 283 Broadway, Norwich, CT 06360  
(860) 887-3747 [www.parkchurchnorwich.org](http://www.parkchurchnorwich.org)

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

# PARK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

Sunday, October 26, 2025



The Publican and the Pharisee, Wesley Frank, (1923-2002) India

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

Welcome Visitors, Friends, and Guests!

*Please make your offering at the giving table at the door or use the QR code for online giving. Thank you for joining us!*

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship Sally Masse, lay reader

Come, let us gather, not in pride, but in humility. Let us come before God, who hears the prayers of the humble and the broken-hearted.

**We come as we are, trusting in God's mercy.  
We bring our hearts—full of gratitude and seeking forgiveness.**

In the story of the Pharisee and the tax collector, Jesus teaches us that true righteousness is found not in boasting, but in confession and grace.  
Let us pray with honesty, knowing God listens to all prayers, both aloud and silent.

**Lord, we open our hearts to You. We seek to be made whole. We seek not to be exalted, but to be filled with Your love and grace.**

As we sing praises, may our songs rise from humble hearts.  
As we offer our prayers, may they be filled with sincerity.

**God, we come with voices of prayer and song,  
Trusting in the wideness of your mercy.  
Make us vessels of Your peace.**

Come, let us worship the God who lifts up those who are humbled,  
And hears the prayers of all who seek God's presence.

**We enter now into worship in song, prayer, and reflection, seeking to follow Jesus Christ with humility and grace.**

\*Hymn “Not My Brother, Nor My Sister” NCH 519  
  
*\* Please rise, if you are able.*

\*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.**

Special Music “Live-a-Humble” by Peter Bagley  
*(Children and youth are dismissed for Sunday School)*

Litany of Confession  
Lord God in heaven,  
we confess that we try to measure our faithfulness  
by comparing ourselves with others.  
**Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us as sinners.**

Forgive us O God, for our failure of imagination: when we fail to acknowledge your Spirit's work in others: in those who have lived before us, in those who will after us, and in those whose lives we will never know about.  
**Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us as sinners.**

Forgive us for choosing comfort and convenience over faithfulness.  
**Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us as sinners.**

Old Testament Reading Psalm 84:1-7 pew Bible 531

\*Hymn “How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place” NCH 600  
*During the music, prayer cards will be collected.*

New Testament Reading Luke 18:9-14 pew Bible 955

Sermon A Song and a Prayer

Special Music “Not One Sparrow is Forgotten” arr. by William Hawley

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.**