



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

November 28, 2021 ~ 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent



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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

*Please stand, if you are able. **Bold** denotes unison response.

CHIMES

Karen Needham

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Brief announcements from the congregation are welcome. **Those wishing to make an announcement** are asked to be in the front pews at the start of the announcement period. **Prayer request cards** may be found on the tables at the back of the church. **Offerings** may be placed in the marked boxes on the tables at the back of the church.*

PRELUDE

The Linden Tree Carol

Old German

T. R. Woodward

CALL TO WORSHIP

A season, a journey...

a watching, a waiting.

A hoping, a trusting...

a believing, a rejoicing.

Advent carries us in hope, toward peace,

in love, toward Christ.

Come, fellow travelers, all watchful ones,

come and journey toward God.

***HYMN**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Pilgrim (red), 103

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us our find our rest in thee.*

*Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

*Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king;
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.*

*By thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.*

*GATHERING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gather us in once more, Lord of Advent,
and teach us to live as awakened people --
hopeful, compassionate and just.
May we welcome your peace deep within us
and be courageous always and everywhere for love,
so that, like the Christ we follow,
we might bear your light in this world.
This we pray in Christ's name and spirit, as we also say together:

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.

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE: HOPE

Tim & Kathleen Lundgren

Advent: a new season begins now.

A new telling of an old story starts today.

We listen for its beauty, we open ourselves to its gifts –

hope, peace, joy, love.

Today we light the first candle, named “Hope.”

**We remember that we who follow Jesus
are people of hope in all things.**

We dwell again in the ancient vision of God's hope for the world.

Isaiah says it this way:

“It shall come to pass that the mountain of the house of the Lord
shall be established, and all the nations shall flow to it....

They shall beat their swords into plowshares,

and their spears into pruning hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

and neither shall they learn war anymore.” *(from Isaiah 2:1-5)*

This is God's hope for the world.

Let it be our hope, too.

The first candle is lit.

Sung response: "Gloria"

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 8/8 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff contains the melody for the first two phrases: "Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!". The second staff contains the melody for the next two phrases: "Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!". Above the notes are four numbered measures of chords: 1) Dm Gm C F, 2) Dm Gm C F, 3) Dm Gm C F, and 4) Dm Gm C F.

Following this, children go out to church school.

ANTHEM *Prepare Thyself Zion*
Senior Choir

J.S. Bach arr. Douglas Wagner

READING FROM SCRIPTURE Isaiah 64:1-9

SERMON "What Do We Mean by 'Hope'?"

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

***HYMN** *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* Chalice (blue), 138

*Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning,
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born – Behold, the Child of our longing!
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
He opens wide the heav'nly door and lives now inside us forever.*

*In deepest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,
As morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the silent join in song, the tired shall leap in wonder,
The weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.*

*Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, through dark the winter & cheerless,
The rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer, and love our endless story,
May God fill ev'ry day we share, and bring us at last into glory.*

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Sevenfold Amen*

***POSTLUDE** *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

Mozart arr. Hal Hopson