



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

December 26, 2021 ~ 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday after Christmas



184 Cherry Brook Road, PO Box 133, Canton Center, CT 06020-0133

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www.cantoncenterchurch.org

~ 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 *Cradle Hymn*

Kim Andre Arnesen

CALL TO WORSHIP

Friends, in these days of Christmastide
may we keep our hearts awake to the light of God,
and remember that it shines upon us, within us, and for us.

May we stay close to the Christ who is born,
**and remember that his love is the love we are learning,
his wisdom is the way we are following.**

In the crowning of the year that is passing
and in the dawning of the new one that soon arrives,
**let the love of God, the light of Christ and the life of the Spirit
be our strength and our joy!**

***CAROL** *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* Pilgrim (red), 488

*Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

*While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens, there shone a holy light.*

Refrain

*The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! Above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.*

Refrain

*Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.*

Refrain

*GATHERING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

God of this special season and of all seasons,
we rejoice in the gifts of Christmas and we carry within us
its hope and peace, its joy and love.
As we come to the gate of a new year,
we remember the light of Christ,
born in the world and born in us,
and renew our purpose to bear that light wherever we are --
within ourselves, with each other, and with all others.
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.

*SUNG RESPONSE *Gloria*

① Dm Gm C F ② Dm Gm C F
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

③ Dm Gm C F ④ Dm Gm C F
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

READING FROM SCRIPTURE John 1:1-14

REFLECTION *Expectations and Wonder* Tim LeGeyt

ANTHEM *Brightest and Best* Paul Sjolund
Senior Choir

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

All: God of every goodness, may your spirit bless all the offerings we
make, that they might become love, compassion & justice in our world.
In this and all seasons, may we bearers of the light of Christ. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

CAROL SING

*BENEDICTION

As we go out this morning, let us go with the deepest of thanks
for the blessings of this season of beauty and light,

for all the gifts of this past year

and for all the promise of a new year beginning.

Let us go in peace and in the bonds of our fellowship,
with one another and with all others,

to love and to serve. Thanks to be God. Amen.

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Gloria

Senior Choir

*POSTLUDE

The Wonder of Christ's Birth

John Behnke

Rev. Brenda is on vacation from Dec. 26 through Jan. 2.
Next Sun., Jan. 2, our guest pastor will be the Rev. Terry Schmitt.
Communion will be on Jan. 9.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ~ SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2022

NOTICE OF A SPECIAL MEETING: of the First Congregational Church, Canton Center,
Sunday, January 23, 2022 after the 10 am service, *OR* on subsequent Sundays until
a Quorum is obtained.

AGENDA

1. Approval of the proposed 2022 budget.
2. Any other business proper to come before said meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bev Sealand, Clerk

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka
Director of Music: Mary Lou Keefe
Office Manager: Kristen DiMattia

Ministers: Every Member
Sexton: Walt LeGeyt

Duty Trustee: Don Scott
Duty Deacons: Vicki Rees & Tim LeGeyt

Camera: Craig McAllister