



# THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

December 5, 2021 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent



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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

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*\*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**

*Hallelujah*

Leonard Cohen arr. Joel Raney

Cherry Brook Chimes Handbell Choir

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come, people of God, and journey deeper into Advent:

**watch and wait, ponder and hope,  
the Lord of Advent is coming.**

Open your eyes, ready your hearts,

**lift up your spirits, awaken your minds,  
the Lord of Advent is coming.**

Into the world as it is, unto us as we are,

**God's ways are breaking in --  
the Lord of Advent is coming.**

**\*HYMN** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Pilgrim (red), 110

**\*GATHERING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**God of Advent, as we move deeper into this season,  
may our hearts and minds stay in its good news –  
that Christ comes into our world to teach us the ways of love,  
to lead us in the ways of peace,  
to make of us a people who live in the light.**

**Help us to hear, help us to awaken, help us to follow,  
so that we ourselves might be Christlike in this world.**

**We gather our prayers into one prayer, as we 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 SECOND ADVENT CANDLE: PEACE

*Dina Raimo Pelham & Maria Emirzian*

In this season of Advent, we open our hearts and minds  
to the light of God, within us, among us and around us.

**We long for the day when that light shines through all things,  
when selfishness and greed, violence and inhumanity,  
are no longer the ways of our world.**

We remember Advent's first candle, for hope,  
and today we light the second candle, for peace.  
We let it remind us of the heart of God.

**We let it remind us that today and tomorrow,  
we will pray and work for God's peace,  
in our own lives, in our own homes,  
in our nation and in the world.**

We let it remind us that God's peace surpasses all human understanding --  
beyond our words but not beyond our experience,  
**always visible with the eyes of faith.**

*The first & second candles are lit.*

**Sung response:**

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**ANTHEM** *Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion*  
Senior Choir

Kenneth Kosche

*Following this, children may go out to church school.*

**READING FROM SCRIPTURE** Luke 3:1-6

**SERMON** "God's Infrastructure Plan"

**DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS**

**All:** God of every goodness, may your spirit bless all the offerings we make,  
that they might become love, compassion and justice in our world. Amen.

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

**Joys & Concerns, Pastoral Prayer**

## MUSICAL INTERLUDE

### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

#### Invitation

As we ready our hearts for the gifts of God,

**we remember that we are the people of God.**

As we remember the life of Christ, given for us,

**we renew our commitment to follow him.**

As we share the Bread of Life and the Cup of Blessing, we rejoice,

**for they bind us in covenant with Christ and with all others.**

#### Prayer of Preparation

#### The Words of Institution & the Partaking of the Elements

#### Prayer of Thanksgiving

To you, O God, who gives us life and new life, we give thanks.

To you we turn our hearts and our lives,

that we might be bearers of faith, hope and love.

Send us out now as your beloved,

to be bread for each other and light for the world. Amen.

#### \*HYMN *Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old*

*Isaiah the prophet has written of old how God's new creation shall come.*

*Instead of the thorn tree, the fir tree shall grow;*

*the wolf shall lie down with the lamb, the lamb, the wolf shall lie down with the lamb.*

*The mountains and hills shall break forth into song, the peoples be led forth in peace;*

*the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God*

*as the waters cover the sea, the sea, as the waters cover the sea.*

*Yet nations still prey on the meek of the world, and conflict turns parent from child.*

*Your people despoil all the sweetness of earth;*

*the brier and the thorn tree grow wild, grow wild, the brier and the thorn tree grow wild.*

*God, bring to fruition your will for the earth, that no one shall hurt or destroy,  
that wisdom and justice shall reign in the land*

*and your people shall go forth in joy, in joy, your people shall go forth in joy.*

#### \*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Rejoice (from O Come, O Come Emmanuel)*

Senior Choir

\*POSTLUDE *Rejoice Greatly* George Handel (from the Messiah) arr. Jack Schrader