



**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
CANTON CENTER, CT**

November 27, 2022 ~ 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent



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

Office 860-693-4581

E-mail: office@cantoncenterchurch.org

www.cantoncenterchurch.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP

**All who are able, please stand.*

***Bold** denotes unison voice.*

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* (German tune) arr. Reginald Jacques

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,

and join the journey of Advent.

***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

Eric, Jennifer, Savannah and Noah Herbek

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 and peace, joy and 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:

**All peoples 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.**

This is God's hope for the world.

Let it be our hope, too.

The first candle is lit.

Sung response: "Gloria"

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!

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Pew Bible p. 555

SERMON *Realistic Advent*

ANTHEM *Every Valley*
Senior Choir

John Ness Beck

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

The God of every goodness blesses us abundantly,

giving us gifts to use for the blessing of the world.

From our own lives into the lives of others,

may the offerings we make,

in all the forms they take,

help us be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

*Doxology

Tune: Old Hundredth

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ all creatures here below,
Praise Holy Spirit evermore,
One God, true, whom we adore*

*Prayer of Dedication

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 *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*
Senior Choir

*POSTLUDE *Gabriel's Message* (Old Basque Noel) arr. Philip Ledger

WELCOME

We're glad you've joined us for worship today.

Please know that whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Questions? Please feel free to ask the pastor, or call the church office during the week.

An Open and Affirming Congregation.

Announcements

The flowers today are given in memory of

Henry LeGeyt by his family.

Brian's Angels

The next opportunities to help make food for Brian's Angels have been scheduled. We will meet on December 9th from 11:00 to approximately 12:30 to make sandwiches. On January 20th, we will meet from 10:00 to approximately 12:30 to make a hot meal. If we have enough volunteers, we will also make sandwiches on this date. Sign-up sheets will be on the kitchen door. Thank you for helping with this important mission.

Hat & Glove Collection

We will be continuing our long-standing tradition of collecting warm hats and gloves to decorate the Christmas tree in the sanctuary starting today. Please bring items in a plastic bag so they don't get pine needles or sap on them. These will be donated to Canton Social Services and Gifts of Love.

Collection for Wellmore

Our mission box collections for November will be **gift cards for Christmas for Wellmore**. Gift cards should be for **Walmart and Target** and can be easily purchased through our Scrip program. Let's make the season joyful for Wellmore, who provides social services to many families in Western Connecticut.

Shop Scrip Today!

The Scrip table is open during coffee hour to supply all your gift card needs! Two weeks of bonuses start today for over 100 brands! Bonuses mean that the church makes extra money on top of the usual rate the retailer offers. Same cost to you – more benefit for the church. Time to start thinking about Christmas gifts! And don't forget the Missions committee is still collecting gift cards for Target and Walmart for Wellmore and we have plenty in stock. Tis the season for giving!!

PRIME TIMERS' Annual Christmas Potluck Luncheon

will be held on FRIDAY, December 16, 2022, at 11:30 am in the Parish Hall. The Canton High School Chamber Singers will join us for lunch, weather permitting, and present a concert following lunch. If school is canceled then the luncheon and concert will be canceled. Note the change of day to FRIDAY to accommodate the schedule of the chorus.

Please note that due to the early arrival of the Chamber Singers, we are requesting that Prime Timers' arrive at 11:00 a.m. with a casserole of your choice. Also, you do not have to belong to Prime Timers' to attend. All are welcome. If you are not a member and wish to attend or have any questions, you may contact Donna Hammond at 860-693-8676.

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

Director of Music: Mary Lou Keefe

Sexton: Walt LeGeyt

Office Manager: Kristen DiMattia

Director of Faith Formation: Dr. Hollace Bristol

Asst. Director of Faith Formation: Karen Needham

Ministers: Every Member

Duty Deacons: Casey Levine & Hugh Anderson

Camera: Kristin Oswald

Sunday 27	Monday 28	Tuesday 29	Wednesday 30	Thursday 1	Friday 1	Saturday 3
Worship 10:00 am <i>No Church School</i>	Choir 5 pm ACA 7 pm Al-Anon 7 pm	AA 7 pm		Bell Choir 5:30 pm		AA 11:00 pm

