



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

January 1, 2023 ~ 10:00 a.m.

New Year's Day ~ Eighth Day of Christmas



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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

Please stand if able. **Bold denotes unison response.*

CHIMES

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 or front of the church.*

PRELUDE *In the Bleak Midwinter*

arr. Harold Darke

CALL TO WORSHIP

On this first day of a new year,
we gather in thanks as the people of God,
trusting in the promise of the year before us.
On this eighth day of Christmas,
we gather in joy as the people of God,
still in the midst of Christmas blessing.
May our hearts and minds be awakened today,
and may our spirits rejoice,
for the God of love is with us in every new beginning.

***HYMN** *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* Chalice (blue), 167

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 the 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 all our times and seasons,
we gather in hope and in joy, in love and in faith,
to continue the days of Christmas
and to welcome the new year before us.

May we receive this day as a new beginning,
trusting in your promise to make all things new.

May we welcome the journey as it comes,
making the paths together,
seeking in all things to be people of love and care,
and following the Christ you have sent us.

In his name and spirit we pray, 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 Isaiah 43:1-2, 18-19 Pew Bible, p. 585

REFLECTION *Thoughts for a New Year*

MUSICAL INTERLUDE *The Angel Gabriel* arr. John Raymond Howell

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

We are grateful for our gifts,
and for the ability to give them.

We are mindful of our place in the web of creation,
and of the ways our generosity are needed.

Because we are the people of God and the community of Christ,
we open our hearts to the world around us.

***Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God for all that love has done,
Creator, Christ and Spirit, One.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

God of grace, we ask your blessing upon all that we offer,
in the church and beyond, to embody love in this world.
Help us to use our gifts wisely, lovingly, and generously,
so that through them and through us,
your goodness will be evident. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

***HYMN** *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* Chalice (blue), 67
Verses 1, 2, 3, 6

*O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.*

*Under the shadow of thy throne still may we dwell secure;
Sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.*

*Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,
From everlasting, thou art God, to endless years the same.*

*O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home.*

***BENEDICTION (said in unison by all)**

Friends, let us go into this day and this week in joy,
and into this new year in hope.
Let us go in the bonds of our fellowship, one with another,
and with all others, to love and to serve.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Amen*

***POSTLUDE** *Brightest and Best*

Paul Sjolund