



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

December 25, 2022 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Day



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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 *Gesu Bambino*

Linda Speacek

CALL TO WORSHIP

May the blessing and peace of Christmas be with us all,
and with the world that God so loves.

May the Christ who has been born on this earth

continue to be born in us,

calling us to hope and peace,

calling us to joy and love,

showing us the light of God

and calling us to follow.

Friends, may all that is hopeful in Christmas

be with us, every one.

***HYMN** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* **Chalice (blue), 150**

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

*Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

*Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings,
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we may no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

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

O God whose Word has become flesh and lives among us,
whose Love lives in this world and holds its heart,
may the deep, abiding truth of Christmas hold all our hearts.
May its gift bless us, whoever we are,
wherever we are on life's journey,
in all that matters most,
so that our lives, our families, our church,
our communities, our nation and our world
might become manglers for love:
places from which your blessing is offered to all.
We pray in the name of the Child, 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*

The musical notation consists of two staves of music in 3/8 time, using a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff contains two measures of music, each with a circled number above it: 1 and 2. The second staff contains two measures of music, each with a circled number above it: 3 and 4. Chord symbols (Dm, Gm, C, F) are placed above the notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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!

ANTHEM *In a Lowly Manger*
Senior Choir

Timothy Shaw

READING FROM SCRIPTURE John 1:1-14

POEM “How the Light Comes” by Jan Richardson

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 in which 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.

***Sung by all** (from “In the Bleak Midwinter”)

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.

If I were a wise man, I would do my part.

But what I can, I give him...give my heart.

***Prayer of Dedication**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

CAROL SING

***WORDS FOR CLOSING** “For All Who Give You a Face”

Chalice Hymnal blue, #157, read responsively

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*
Senior Choir

Eng. Folk song
arr. Beatrice Krone

***POSTLUDE** *He Is Born*

arr. Robert Wetzler