



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

December 4, 2022 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent



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

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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 *Adam Lay YBouden* Medieval 15th cen. Arr. Philip Ledger

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

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

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

**God of Advent, as we move deeper into this season,
may our hearts and minds stay focused on its good news,
that Christ comes into our world
to teach us the ways of love.**

**As we gather on this second Sunday,
may we remember your gift of peace to this world
and renew our call to be, ourselves, bearers of peace,
always preparing the way of the Lord.**

This we ask 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 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

Kristin Oswald & Darryl Haberern

In this season of Advent, we open our spirits 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, for peace.

**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 two candles are lit.

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!

ANTHEM *Waiting for A King*
Senior Choir

Joseph Martin/Paul Williams

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Luke 3:1-6

Pew bible, p. 834

SERMON *Rough and Smooth, Here and Now*

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, triune, whom we adore*

*Prayer of Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

*HYMN

All Earth is Waiting

Chalice (blue), 139

Verses 1 and 3

*All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
And open furrows, the sowing of our God.
All the world bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
It cries out for justice and searches for the truth.*

*Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;
Open new highways, new highways for our God,
Who is now coming closer, so come all and see,
And open the doorways as wide as wide can be.*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be served in the pews; all are welcome to participate. As the elements are passed, please wait until all have been served and all will partake together. Gluten-free bread is in the center of each plate. The juice trays hold non-alcoholic grape juice, with a few cups of water also available on each.

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 (insert)*

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*
Senior Choir

***POSTLUDE** *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

Mozart/Hopson Isaiah 40 3-5

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 by Gail Macbeth
in loving memory of Stanley and grandsons, Michael & Kevin.*

*Thank you to Marianne Burbank & Tim LeGeyt for the donation of
the sanctuary tree, from Case's Farm, in memory of:
Marianne's grandfather, Harry Humphrey and father, Sam Humphrey
and Tim's grandfather, Mort Bristol*

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.

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.

Poinsettias

If you would like to purchase poinsettias to decorate for our December 18 & 24 services, please fill out a form from the table near bulletin board, return to the offering plate or the church office before Dec. 11.

Shop Scrip Today!

The Scrip table is open during coffee hour to supply all your gift card needs! Big bonuses for many popular brands continue this week. 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!!

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.

Pledges

We kindly ask our member to make every effort to complete your current year pledges before year end. If you would like your 2022 contributions included on your year end statement, please have them in by Dec. 30. If you need a 2023 pledge form, they can be found on the table near bulletin board.

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: Bev Sealand & Eric Herbek
Camera: Craig McAllister

Sunday 4	Monday 5	Tuesday 6	Wednesday 7	Thursday 8	Friday 9	Saturday 10
Worship 10:00 am <i>Court of Honor</i> <i>2:00 pm</i>	Choir 5 pm ACA 7 pm Al-Anon 7 pm	AA 7 pm	Diaconate 7:00 pm	Bell Choir 5:30 pm		AA 11:00 pm

