



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

January 8, 2023 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Epiphany Sunday



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 *Brightest and Best* trad. Appalachian arr. Jerome Epstein

CALL TO WORSHIP

New beginnings and revelations:

God's light seen in many ways.

Epiphanies of grace and truth:

the Christ-spirit shining in a world of need.

Like wise ones before us, we follow the light,

we choose the path and look for God.

Friends, let us rejoice in this season of new beginning:

for God makes all things new.

***HYMN** *Brightest and Best* Chalice (blue), 174

*Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our pathway and lend us your aid.
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.*

*Shall we give Jesus our costly devotion,
Fragrance of Edom, and offerings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?*

*Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts Jesus' favor secure.
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,
Dearer to God are the gifts of the poor.*

*Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our pathway and lend us your aid;
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.*

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

Holy and Eternal One,
who sends us births, beginnings and light,
we give thanks for every epiphany that shows us who you are,
for every experience that shines your love upon us.
May your wisdom guide us on our present journeys
and make us ready for those to come,
hopeful for the work of seeking
and for all that Christ teaches us
of courage, compassion and love.
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!

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS

The Missions & Outreach Committee

MUSICAL INTERLUDE *Star of Bethlehem*

Bricusse/Williams arr. Tom Fettke

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-12

Pew Bible, p. 783

SERMON

The End of the Story

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**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

***HYMN** *I Come with Joy* Chalice (blue), 420
Verses 1, 2 & 3

*I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved and free,
The life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.*

*I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
The new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.*

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.

The love that made us, makes us one and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.

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 God and with all others.

Prayer of Preparation

The Words of Institution & Sharing 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

I Come with Joy

Chalice (blue), 420

Verses 4 & 5

The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen but ever near,

Is in such friendship better known, alive among us here, alive among us here.

Together met, together bound by all that God has done,

We'll go with joy to give the world that love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Amen*

*POSTLUDE *In the Bleak Midwinter*

Gustav Holst arr. Karen Buckwalter

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!

If you're visiting, we invite you to fill out a visitor's card (found in the pews or on the back tables) and place it in an offering box, to help us better connect with you.

Looking for more information about the church?

Please feel free to ask the pastor or contact the church office during the week.

Announcements

Sunday Flowers— We have an opening for Sunday flower contributions on January 15th. If you would like to provide flowers in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of someone special or an event, please contact Nancy Alford at (860.693.2863).

Boxed Pledge Envelopes - Sorry for the delay as the envelope company is short handed. You can give your check/cash in a pew envelope and Kristen can look up your number in the office.

Brian's Angels - On Jan. 20, we will meet from 10:00 to approximately 12:30 to make a hot meal. Sign-up sheets on the kitchen door. Thank you for helping with this important mission.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ~ SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2023

NOTICE OF A SPECIAL MEETING: of the First Congregational Church, Canton Center, Sunday, January 15, 2023 after the 10 am service, *OR* on subsequent Sundays until a Quorum is obtained.

AGENDA

1. Approval of the proposed 2023 budget.
2. Any other business proper to come before said meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bev Sealand, Clerk

Sunday January 29, 2023

Italian Buffet

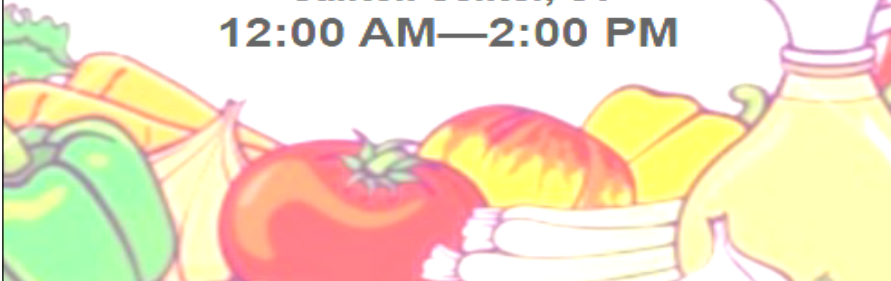
All You Can Eat !

**Chicken Parmesan • Sausage & Peppers
Spaghetti & Meatballs
Pork Marsala
Vegetarian Dishes
Salad • Dessert
Homemade Italian Bread**

Adults \$15 Kids 7-12 \$6 Under 7 Free

**Canton Center Congregational Church
184 Cherry Brook Road, Route 179
Canton Center, CT**

12:00 AM—2:00 PM



Sunday 8	Monday 9	Tuesday 10	Wednesday 11	Thursday 12	Friday 13	Saturday 14
Worship\ Communion 10:00 am	Trustees 7 pm ACA 7 pm Al-Anon 7 pm	AA 7 pm	Council Meeting 7 pm			Memorial 1:00 pm AA 11 pm

