



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

December 10, 2023 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

In Person & Live Streamed



*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ~John 14:27*

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 ~

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

CHIMES

Karen Needham

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Brief announcements are welcome, please be in the front pews at the start of the announcements.
Offerings and prayer request on the yellow prayer cards found in the pews may be placed in the offering plate at the time of the offering or in the designated boxes on the back table.*

PRELUDE

Waiting for a King
Senior Choir

J. Paul Williams/Joseph M. Martin

CALL TO WORSHIP

May our hearts be filled with thankfulness for God's generous Spirit.

**Hear our songs and prayers of thanksgiving
as You show us the way of peace.**

Surround yourselves in God's Word discovering the peace only Christ provides.

**And we will know a peace that we had not expected.
Come, let us worship God.**

***HYMN**

O Come all Ye Faithful

Chalice (Blue) 148

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

Lord God, we pray for peace in our world and in our lives. You provide peace within us through our Savior, Jesus Christ. People long for peace and cry out for a day when war and strife will be no more. Offer us the vision of standing in Your presence, at peace with all those around us, and at peace with You, our God. Thank You Holy One for the peace that passes our understanding yet not our hearts!

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.

***Gloria Patri**

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end, Amen, Amen.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – PEACE

Tyler Baldwin & Kevin Baldwin

PRESENTATION OF THE CRECHE

Church School Youth

(The youth are excused for Church school)

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS

Paul Stansel

OFFERING

Imagine, if you will, that our offerings be transformed. Visualize your offering as not simply coins clinking in the plate or bills tucked in envelopes. They're symbols of our commitment to be peacemakers, to build a world where every child can sleep soundly under a sky free from the roar of warplanes, where every table delights with bounty instead of echoing with empty stomachs. Let us be the living embodiment of Advent's promise, carrying the torch of peace into every corner of our lives, into every encounter, into every conversation. We will now receive our Sunday morning offering.



OFFERTORY

Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion
Senior Choir

Kenneth Kosche

***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. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Divine Source of Peace, we come before You today with humble hearts and outstretched hands, laying down our offerings not to appease, for Your love is boundless, but to align ourselves with Your purpose. May these gifts be instruments of peace, ripples of Your serenity spreading outwards. We pray not just for the immediate impact of these offerings, but for the seeds of peace they may sow. May they blossom in acts of kindness, in forgiveness extended, and in the patient pursuit of justice. Amen

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE



Philippians 4:4-9 Pew Bible page 955

Ephesians 2:11-18 Pew Bible page 950

SERMON *The Prince of Peace: A Beacon of Hope in a World Yearning for Harmony*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns
Moment of Silence
Pastoral Prayer

***HYMN** *Go in Peace* Chalice (Blue) 445

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Peace I Leave with You* Matthew Glandorf
Senior Choir

***POSTLUDE** *Rejoice in the Lord Always* Henry Purcell

The Worship is ended...Our Service Now Begins