



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

December 1, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent

In Person & Live Streamed



The word advent means “expectation.”

What advent can do for us is create a sense of hope. ~Louis Giglio

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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

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

CHIMES

Karen Needham

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

Acolytes

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.

PRESENTATION OF CRÈCHE

Children are excused for Church School returning for Holy Communion

PRELUDE

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Edward Broughton

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord. Arise, shine, for your light has come!

The glory of the Lord has dawned upon us.

Let us prepare the way of the Lord, as we light the candle of hope today.

We yearn for the fulfillment of God's promises.

*HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Pilgrim (Red) #110

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE ~HOPE Melissa Collins & Darryl Haberern

*GATHERING PRAYER & *THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gracious God, as the days grow shorter and the nights grow longer, we gather to light the candle of hope. In the midst of darkness, may Your light shine brightly within us. Fill us with the hope of Your coming, and the joy of Your presence. Grant us the grace to see You in the faces of others, to hear Your voice in the silence, and to feel Your love in our hearts. May we be instruments of Your peace, spreading goodwill to all and fill us with anticipation as we await the coming of Christ. In Your holy name, we pray. Amen.

*Hymn

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Chalice (blue), #307

*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.*

OFFERING

Let us open our hearts and join hands in ways we can nurture the growth of our faith and strengthen our community. Remember, even the smallest seed can grow into a mighty tree. With your help, we can lay the foundation for a stronger, more vibrant church that will continue to touch lives for generations to come. Let us now with grateful hearts receive our Sunday morning offering.



OFFERTORY

Waiting for a King



J. Williams & J. Martin

*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

Loving God, you call us to be instruments of Your love and hope in the world. May these gifts be used wisely by this church to further Your work in the world, spreading love, compassion, and justice. In Jesus' name, Amen

SCRIPTURE



Isaiah 40:3-5

Mark 1:1-8

Pew Bible pg. 581

Pew Bible pg. 812

SERMON

A Flame of Hope: Igniting Hearts This Advent

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH



*Joys & Concerns
Moment of Silence
Pastoral Prayer*

HYMN (seated)

Glorious Is Your Name, O Jesus

Chalice (Blue) #118

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Prayer over the Elements

Serving of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We thank You for the spiritual nourishment and strength You have given us. We thank You for the hope and joy You have instilled in our hearts. May we live our lives in a way that reflects Your love, compassion, and grace. As we leave this sacred space, may we carry Your light into the world. Empower us to be instruments of Your love, to serve others with kindness and compassion. With grateful hearts, we offer this prayer to You, O divine Creator, Amen

*HYMN

When God is a Child

Chalice (Blue) #132

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE Amen

*POSTLUDE

Fanfare on 'Mit Freuden Zart' (With Tender Joy)

Brenda Portman

The Worship is ended ~Our Service Now Begins

****Please stand as you are able***

Interim Minister: Rev. Kurt Satherlie

Director of Music: Mary Lou Keefe

Asst. of Faith Formation: Karen Needham

Office Manager: Kristen DiMattia

Deacons: Phil Doyle & Cora Mutch

Coffee Hour: Rebecca Glinsmn

Ministers: Every Member

Dir. of Faith Formation: Dr. Hollace Bristol

Sexton: Walt LeGeyst

Trustees: Don Scott & Julius Ziemba

Greeters: Rick Herbek