



# THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

December 22, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

In Person & Live Streamed



*Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things ~ 1 Corinthians 13:5-7*

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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

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

**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.*

**PRELUDE**

*Waiting for a King*

Joseph M. Martin

*(lighting of the altar candles by the acolyte at the beginning of the prelude)*

**INTROIT**

*Rolling Downward*  
Men's Chorus Dir. Jim Todd

**PRESENTATION OF CRÈCHE**

Church School Youth

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Love came down at Christmas. Let us open our hearts to receive this perfect love.

**Love came down to earth from heaven above. Let us rejoice in His love.**

The King is coming! Let us welcome our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.

**Love is the greatest gift of all. Let us worship God with hearts full of love.**

**\*HYMN**

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

Pilgrim (Red) #488

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

**Holy God, we gather before Your throne of grace, humbled by Your majesty and awed by Your love. Ignite our hearts with Your passion and empower us to live as Your faithful followers. In the stillness we hear Your call and hold it dear in our hearts. Holy Spirit descend on us filling our minds with Your wisdom and our hearts with Your love. May Your love flow through us, transforming our lives and the lives of others. In the Name of the One who never disappoints or changes. Amen!**

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**



Evelyn, Diane & Bev Sealand

**OFFERING**

As we anticipate the coming of Christ, the Light of the World, let us share the light of His love with others. As the offering is received, may it be a reflection of our hearts, filled with gratitude and generosity. Let us give freely, knowing that our gifts will bring hope and healing to those in need. Let us now receive our Sunday morning offering.



**OFFERTORY**

*Celtic Christmas Lullaby*  
Senior Choir

Joel Raney

**\*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**

Gracious God, we offer these gifts as a token of our love and gratitude. May they be used to strengthen our church's mission of spreading Your love and

compassion to those who are suffering and in need. As we anticipate the birth of Your Son, Jesus Christ, help us to live lives of love and service, following His example. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*(Youth are excused for Church School)*

## SCRIPTURE



John 15:9-17

Pew Bible pg. 878

## SERMON

*The Power of Love in Action*

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Joys & Concerns ~ Moment of Silence ~ Pastoral Prayer*

## \*HYMN

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

Pilgrim (Red) #116

## \*BENEDICTION

## \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*Thee with Tender Care*  
Senior Choir

J. S. Bach

## \*POSTLUDE

*Arise, Shine, for Thy Light Has Come*

Stephen Burtonwood

*The Worship is ended...Our Service Now Begins*

**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:** Marianne Burbank

**Ministers:** Every Member

**Dir. of Faith Formation:** Dr. Hollace Bristol

**Sexton:** Walt LeGeyt

**Trustees:** Phil LeGeyt

**Greeters:** Craig & Linda McAllister