



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

**December 8, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m.**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**In Person & Live Streamed**



*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*~ Isaiah 9:6*

*The practice of peace and reconciliation is one of the most vital and artistic of human actions.*

*~ Thich Nhat Hanh*

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**[www.cantoncenterchurch.org](http://www.cantoncenterchurch.org)**

~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

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*\*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

Church School Youth

PRELUDE

*O Come, O Come Immanuel*

Natalie Sleeth

CALL TO WORSHIP

In this second week of Advent, we celebrate the peace that Christ brings to our hearts and our world.

**We seek the peace of Christ to still our hearts and minds,  
to guide us in our actions, and to bring healing to a troubled world.**

Hear the words of Jesus: *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*

**We cherish the peace of Christ, embracing it as a gift  
to share with others and committing to live as His peacemakers.**

Focus your hearts and minds on Jesus' reassuring words: *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 be afraid.*

**Come, Lord Jesus, our Prince of Peace.**

**We await Your coming with joyful anticipation.**

\*HYMN

*O Come all Ye Faithful*

Chalice (Blue) 148

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

**Loving Lord, our source of all comfort and hope, we gather in Your presence.  
As we light the candle of peace, may its glow illuminate our hearts and minds.  
We pray for peace in our homes, our communities, and our world. May we  
be instruments of peace, spreading love, kindness, and understanding.**

*Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. {Philippians 4:7}*

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      Ashlynn & Rebecca Glinsman

*(The youth are excused for Church school)*

**OFFERING**

As we graciously offer our gifts, let us also remember those less fortunate. May our offerings, both material and spiritual, reflect our commitment to building a more just and peaceful world as well as reflect our love for God and neighbor. We will now receive our Sunday morning offering.



**OFFERTORY**

*Hark, the Glad Sound, the Savior Comes*      Mary Lynn Lightfoot  
Senior Choir

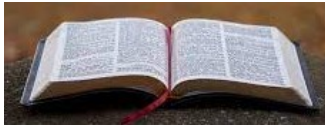
**\*Doxology**

*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**

**Heavenly Creator, as we present our offerings, we acknowledge that all things belong to You. Your love knows no bounds and is beyond measure. Help us to reflect Your love in all that we do, including our giving. Guide us to be faithful stewards, using all that You have given us for Your glory, Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE



Isaiah 26:3-12

Pew Bible pg. 569

*A Prayer for Peace & Calm by Teresa of Ávila*

SERMON

*A Serene Heart, A Peaceful Mind*

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

\*HYMN

*Let There be Peace on Earth*

Chalice (Blue) 677

\*BENEDICTION

**Lord God, as we depart this morning, may we be united in our quest to spread peace to one another, our neighbors, and world. We ask this blessing in Jesus Christ, Amen.**

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

\*POSTLUDE

*Overture from the Messiah* Allegro Moderato Georg Handel

*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:** Kathy Pickrell

**Ministers:** Every Member

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

**Sexton:** Walt LeGeyst

**Trustees:** Sue Lampros & Bob Howson

**Greeters:** Ashlynn Glinzman