



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

January 5, 2025 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Second Sunday after Christmas
In Person & Live Streamed



Those who walk with God always reach their destination. ~Henry Ford

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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

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

What Child Is This

arr. Dorothy Wells

During the prelude an acolyte will light our altar candles

CALL TO WORSHIP

In this new year, let us renew our faith and hope. Let us seek God's grace in all that we do.

**Let us come before God with open hearts and minds
to worship and to be renewed.**

Like the wise men, let us seek the light of Christ and **follow**
the star to find God's presence.

**Let us love our neighbors as ourselves, strive for justice and peace
in the world and walk with God on this journey of life.**

***HYMN**

Holy, Holy, Holy. Lord God Almighty

Chalice (Blue) #4

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

Lord, as we enter this new year, we come before You with humble hearts and expectant spirits. We pause to express our gratitude for all Your blessings. As we acknowledge the uncertainty that lies before us fill us with a renewed sense of hope, a hope that can withstand any storm. Grant us wisdom and courage as we navigate the challenges and embrace the opportunities that lie ahead. Guide our steps, strengthen our resolve, and fill us with your peace that surpasses all understanding. May this year be one of growth, healing, reconciliation, harmony, and solidarity. May we be a beacon of light and love to the world, reflecting your glory in all that we do. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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.*

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Martha Stansel

OFFERING



OFFERTORY

Cantilena on "Nicaea"

by Brenda Portman,
tune by John B. Dykes

***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, as we step into this new year, we come before You with hope and expectation. We dedicate this offering to You, believing that it will be multiplied and used for Your purposes. May it be a seed that bears abundant fruit, bringing transformation to lives, healing to the broken, and hope to the despairing. We pray for Your blessing upon this offering and upon all who contribute. Amen

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 43:15-19

Pew Bible pg. 586

Matthew 2:1-12

Pew Bible pg. 783

SERMON

Journeying with the Magi: Following Christ's Light in 2025

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns
Moment of Silence
Pastoral Prayer

{Soft, Reflective Music}

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Prayer over the Elements

Serving of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are we Lord for filling us with Your presence, a flame of love that warms our hearts and renews our spirits. May this holy meal nourish our spirits and guide us to be beacons of light radiating Your compassion and grace lifting praise to Your Holy Name. This we pray sustained by Your love. Amen

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Amen

***POSTLUDE**

Prelude and Fugue in G Major, BWV 557 - J. S. Bach

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

Trustees: Sue Lampros & Bob Howson

Ministers: Every Member

Dir. of Faith Formation: Dr. Hollace Bristol

Sexton: Walt LeGeyt

Coffee Hour Host: Debbie Poleyestewa

Greeters: Craig & Linda McAllister