

The First Congregational Church  
(United Church of Christ)  
Canton Center, Connecticut

October 19, 2008

10:00 AM

CHIMES

Bob Oswald

INTERESTS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

PRELUDE

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP: (**responsively**)

We are drawn to worship by a Reality unseen.  
The One we call God is beyond human description.

**God is more than we can ever imagine.**

**We sense God's presence as we meditate.**

We gather in awe to bring our songs of praise.

The Creator of all things has given us life.

**We are amazed by the wonders around us.**

**We feel God's presence as we sing together.**

We are summoned by One who is just and merciful.

The Ruler of all worlds expects us to respond.

**How amazing that God chooses us as messengers.**

**We know God is with us as we work for justice.**

\*HYMN 5 (*Chalice*)

"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in **unison**) followed by

THE LORD'S PRAYER (using debts and debtors):

**Appear to us here, God of all worlds, for we need your assurance and blessing. We seek the strength to do what is right and just. We long to see you, even though we sense that a god we could see would only be a tiny part of you whose Spirit fills all time and space. We want you to have a face like ours, so we find your face in Jesus, and occasionally in one another. We want to be certain that our decisions and actions are right, but often it is only long afterwards that we realize you were with us. O God, we want to be open to all you are revealing to us now. In Jesus' name we pray, and also saying, Our Father...**

\*GLORIA PATRI (*Chalice* #35)

RESPONSIVE READING: Page **751** (*Chalice*) Psalm 99

OFFERTORY: "A Song at the Crossroads"  
Senior Choir

-Shackley

\*DOXOLOGY (*Chalice* #46)

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (**in unison**)

**O God, we sense that you are calling us to manage well all the things that belong to you. The empires of this world have no claim on the resources you have provided except as they are used for the common good. The offerings we receive as a church are not for our private benefit or to buy services for ourselves. Thus we here dedicate the gifts you have provided in our money and abilities and our time to extend a helping hand and joyous welcome to every people on the face of the earth. May our efforts find favor with you. Amen.**

A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

followed by THE PASTORAL PRAYER and ORGAN RESPONSE

\*HYMN 606 (*Chalice*)

"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 22:15-22 (Pew Bibles, N.T. p. 23)

SERMON:

"RENDER TO CAESAR"

\*HYMN 609 (*Chalice*)

"Take My Life"

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

\*POSTLUDE: "Marche Romaine"

-Gounod

(\*All who are able, please stand)

The Rev. Susan M. Prichard	Interim Minister
Sarah LeGeyt	Director of Christian Education & Youth
Mary Lou Keefe	Organist; Director of Music
Dave Downs	Duty Trustee
Geri Bunnell and Curt Johnson	Duty Deacons
Pat and Jerry Alonzy	Greeters
Marg and Dave Ayres	Ushers
David and Deb Poleyestewa	Coffee Hour Hosts

*The First Congregational Church*  
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**THE FLOWERS** today are given by the Carlton Family in memory of loved ones.

**WE CORDIALLY WELCOME** those who are visitors to this church and to this morning's worship service. Please sign the guest book in the vestibule. Or, fill in a Friendship Card found in the pews. Also found in with the Friendship Cards are Pew Envelopes. Please feel free to use them for any donation.

**NURSERY CARE** is available in the lower level for infants through 2 years old.

**LARGE PRINT COPIES** of today's bulletin are available on the ushers' tables in the back of the church.

**PLEASE JOIN US** in the Parish Hall after worship today for a time of refreshment and fellowship.

Please see bulletin insert for announcements



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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2008**

**DEADLINE** is today for submitting items for the November issue of *The Churchmouse*.

**“A SLICE OF BROADWAY”** tickets are on sale today at coffee hour. On Nov. 1, 7:00 PM, Senior Choir members offer renditions of Broadway favorites, with a dessert intermission. TKTS: \$10 adults, \$5 children. Proceeds benefit Susan B. Anthony Project.

**SYF: PURCHASE TRANS-SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA TICKETS** at coffee hour. for a concert in Hartford on the afternoon of Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> Cost: \$29.50. See Rachel Baugher today or next Sunday.

**BUTTER BRAIDS FUNDRAISER:** The SYF will be taking orders today at the coffee hour for those delicious “thaw & bake” pastries. Taste a sample! Place orders for delivery Nov. 23.

**SYF:** Today, beginning at 11:30 AM with pizza lunch.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** meets today. Begin with SYF at 11:30 AM for pizza lunch. Class session to follow.

**JUNIOR CHOIR:** Today, 11:15 in the Music Room.

**OUR MISSION FOR OCTOBER** is to collect coats and sweaters (for adults and children) for South Park Inn.

### **COMING IN THE WEEK AHEAD**

**SENIOR CHOIR:** Monday, 7:00 PM. and also  
**“BROADWAY” REHEARSAL:** Tuesday, 7:00 PM, Music Room.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Wednesday, 7:00 PM.

**BELL CHOIR:** Thursday, 7:00 PM.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS TRIP TO PLYMOUTH** is next Sunday. Please be at church to depart at 7:15 AM.

**JYF BAKE SALE** next Sunday at coffee hour to benefit the Children’s Home in Cromwell.

**CHRISTMAS WREATHS:** Order balsam wreaths on Oct. 26, and Nov. 2, from the Confirmation Class during the coffee hours. The proceeds benefit the Susan B. Anthony project. Pick up Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>.