

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

December 14, 2008

10:00 AM

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
PAGEANT SUNDAY

CHIMES Karen Olejniczak

INTERESTS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

PRELUDE: "Gabriel's Message" -trad. Basque

CHORAL INTROIT: "Do You Know" -Keefe  
Cherub Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP: (**responsively**)

God is in our midst; do not fear.

God rejoices to renew our lives in steadfast love.

**God gathers us for this time of worship.**

**God claims us and promises us a home.**

Trust in God who is our strength and life.

Give thanks to God, the source of our salvation.

**We will sing praises and exalt God's name.**

**With joyous shouts, we will tell of God's glorious deeds.**

Rejoice in God, whatever your circumstances.

Remember the good fortune God has shared with you.

**We will not worry as we seek God's peace.**

**We open our hearts and minds to God's leading.**

\*HYMN 116 (*Pilgrim*) "Angels We Have Heard on High"

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: **JOY**

Candle Lighters: The Bowman Family

Readings

Unison Prayer:

**Dear God, we thank you for the delight and excitement we feel this time of year. Continue to fill us with your joy, O God. As we wait in wonder, help us to spread your light of joy to others. Amen.**

HYMN (seated) "One Candle Is Lit"

**Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth,**

**Join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.**

**Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise.**

**One candle is lit for the joy of these days.**

OFFERTORY: "Have You Heard"  
Junior Choir

-Leaf

\*DOXOLOGY (*Pilgrim* #515)

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

**In our unworthiness, O God, may we bring worthy gifts to honor the Messiah. May the brokenhearted be led to enriching new celebrations. May the lowly among us come to know their true worth as persons chosen by you to do great things. By your mercy, may the hungry be fed not only with bread but also with opportunities to feed others. We give ourselves as your servants, for no gift is complete without personal commitment. Thank you, God, for expecting great things of us. Our spirits rejoice in the coming of our Savior. Amen.**

\*HYMN 142 (*Pilgrim*) "Unto Us a Boy Is Born"  
**The pageant participants proceed to their places when the hymn begins.**

**"LIGHT OF THE WORLD"**

A Church School Presentation directed by Sarah W. LeGeyt  
(NO photography, please)

**The designated hymns will be sung (seated) by the congregation after a brief lead-in.**

OVERTURE: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Pageant Ensemble

HYMN 134 v. 1 (*Pilgrim*) "O Little Town of Bethlehem"  
**(sung by congregation)**

HYMN 134 v. 2 (*Pilgrim*) "O Little Town of Bethlehem"  
**(sung by congregation)**

ANTHEM: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Flutes and Guitars

HYMN 137 v. 1 (*Pilgrim*) "Away in a Manger"  
**Played once through by Ensemble followed by v. 1 sung by congregation**

HYMN 117 v. 1 & 2 (*Pilgrim*) "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"  
**(sung by congregation)**

HYMN **122 v. 2 & 3** (*Pilgrim*) “God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”  
(sung by congregation)

HYMN **143 v. 1** (*Pilgrim*) “We Three Kings of Orient Are”  
(sung by congregation)

“THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE” (*see insert*)  
**Children sing v. 1 - 3, Soloist: Katie Mankowksi;**  
**followed by congregation singing v. 1 - 3**

RECESSIONAL: “Joy to the World!” Pageant Ensemble  
**Pageant participants recess to the Parish Hall.**

\*BENEDICTION and \*RESPONSE

\*POSTLUDE: “O Come, Little Children” -trad. carol/arr. Bish  
(\*All who are able, please stand)

The Rev. Susan M. Prichard	Interim Minister
Sarah W. LeGeyt	Director of Christian Education & Youth
Mary Lou Keefe	Organist; Director of Music
Bob Oswald	Ensemble Director
Judy Robinson	Cherub Choir Director
Betsy Ash	Junior Choir Director
Lydia Petersen and Dave Ayres	Duty Deacons
Ron Olejniczak	Duty Trustee
Jim and Gina Magennis	Greeters
Walter LeGeyt and Gary Adajian	Ushers
Members of the Christian Education Committee	Coffee Hour Hosts

**THE FLOWERS** today are given in loving memory of Alta and Glenn Macbeth and Anita and Neal McConnell by Gail and Stan Macbeth.

**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 with the Friendship Cards are Pew Envelopes. Please feel free to use them for any donation.

**NURSERY CARE** is available in the lower level of the Parish House 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. Large print editions of the Chalice Hymnal are also available for use during worship.

**A TIME FOR REFRESHMENT AND FELLOWSHIP** will be held in the church’s Parish Hall after the service today.

Please see bulletin insert for announcements

**ANNOUNCEMENTS – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2008**

**CHERUB CHOIR** members are debuting their choir robes today. These were sewn by Judy Robinson and Diana Riley.

**SPECIAL MEETING** of the congregation will be held **today**, immediately following the service, for important discussion of the proposed 2009 Operating Budget. ***Childcare is provided.***

**CHERUB CHOIR** today, 11:15 AM; **JUNIOR CHOIR** today, 11:30 AM, in the Music Room.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** meets today, 11:45 AM – 1:15 PM. Please bring a bag lunch.

**ORDER MEMORIAL POINSETTIA PLANTS** today after the service. Phone orders are welcome as well; please call Polly Rice 651-7813 or Ellen Potter 693-2391. The cost per plant is \$9.00. A check payment should be made to the church. Please leave your poinsettia until *after the 7:30 service* on December 24.

**SYF CHRISTMAS PARTY** planned for today has been cancelled.

**COMING UP**

**SENIOR CHOIR:** Monday, 7:00 PM.

**BIBLE STUDY:** Tuesday, 10:30 AM; Iron of Culture: Tel Azekah.

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

**NEXT SUNDAY IS MUSIC SUNDAY. SENIOR, JUNIOR & BELL CHOIRS** will be presenting “Lessons and Carols” with readings during the regular service.

**CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES** *will* meet next Sunday, Dec. 21. There will be ***no classes*** on Sunday, Dec. 28.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES** will be held at **6:00 PM** and **7:30 PM** on Wednesday, December 24. The 6:00 PM service will be the shorter of the two, being more geared for families with young children. Both services, however, will conclude with the traditional candle light ceremony and the singing of “Silent Night.”