

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

December 21, 2008

10:00 AM

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**MUSIC SUNDAY – LESSONS AND CAROLS**

CHIMES

Bob Oswald

INTERESTS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

PRELUDE: “A Child Is Born, Our Savior” Medley -Lantz/Lindh  
Lydia Petersen, piano

INTROIT: “Now the Green Blade Riseth”  
(Sing We Now of Christmas) -Fr. carol/arr.McChesney  
Cherry Brook Chimes Bell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP: (**responsively**)

Come apart to this place of rest and renewal;  
Let your spirits rejoice in the presence of God.

**We will sing of God’s steadfast love for all people.**

**We will proclaim God’s faithfulness to all generations.**

God looks with favor on the humble and lowly.

God’s covenant does not focus on rank or position.

**God strengthens those who are weak.**

**The proud are scattered in the thoughts of their hearts.**

Blessed are those who walk in God’s light.

Blessed are all who say ‘yes’ to God’s call.

**Let the heavens proclaim the wonders of God.**

**Let all the earth rejoice in Christ’s coming.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER (in **unison**, using debts and debtors)

\*CAROL **148** (*Chalice*)

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 3

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: **LOVE**

Candle Lighters: The O’Toole Family

Readings

Unison Prayer:

**O God, we thank you that Jesus showed his love for every person – babies and children, old people and young, sick people and those who are strong, rich people and those who are poor. Come to us in this Advent season and give us love in our hearts for all people. Amen.**

HYMN

“One Candle Is Lit”

**Come, wander where lion and lamb gently play,  
Where evil is banished and faith takes the day,  
A babe in a manger to fool the world’s eyes.  
One candle is lit for God’s loving surprise.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

ANTHEM: **165** (*Chalice*) “Once in Royal David’s City” -Gauntlet  
Katie Walker & Katherine Graham, soloists; Bob Oswald, piano  
Junior Choir & Senior Choir

**Congregation is asked to join in for verse 4.**  
**The church school children pass to their classrooms**  
**after the conclusion of the anthem.**

SECOND LESSON: Isaiah 11 (Pew Bibles, O.T. p. 607)

ANTHEM: “The Holly Bears a Berry”  
(Sans Day Carol) -Trad. Cornish/arr. Helvey  
Senior Choir; Bob Oswald & Mary Lou Keefe, pianos

THIRD LESSON: Micah 5 (Pew Bibles, O.T. p. 816)

ANTHEM: “Ding Dong Merrily on High” -16<sup>th</sup> cent. Fr./arr. Eithun  
Cherry Brook Chimes Bell Choir; Linda Ripley, flute

FOURTH LESSON: Luke 1

ANTHEM: “Sing, O Sing, This Blessed Morn” -Leavitt  
Senior Choir; Claire Byko, glockenspiel;  
Linda Ripley & Jen Connolly, percussion

FIFTH LESSON: Luke 2 – The Birth of Jesus

ANTHEM: “Tell Me, Who Is This Tiny Little Baby” -Fauré  
Judy Robinson & Linda Ripley, soloists; Lauren McAllister, oboe

SIXTH LESSON: Luke 2 – The Shepherds Visit

ANTHEM: “King Jesus Hath a Garden” -Dutch tune  
Senior Choir; Linda Ripley & Linda McAllister, percussion

SEVENTH LESSON: Matthew 2 – The Coming of the Wise Men

ANTHEM: “We Three Kings” -Hopkins/Dobrinski  
Cherry Brook Chimes Bell Choir

OFFERTORY: "The Snow Lay on the Ground"  
(Venite Adoramus Dominum) -trad. English carol/arr. Lindh  
Senior Choir

\*DOXOLOGY (*Chalice* #46)

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

**Our best we give to you, loving God, for you have given your best to us in the mystery of the incarnation. May our offerings proclaim Jesus in ways that will be received with joy. Send your Word to the world in this season through our caring service. May we share it with one another in ways that help us to grow. We are your servants. The gifts we dedicate are already yours. Thank you for all the ways you have provided for us. Amen.**

EIGHTH LESSON: John 1

\*CAROL **150** (*Chalice*) "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

\*BENEDICTION and \*RESPONSE

\*POSTLUDE: "Pat-a-Pan" -Trad. French/arr. Morris

(\*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
Betsy Ash	Junior Choir Director
Lydia Petersen and Matt Solomon	Duty Deacons
Hugh Anderson	Duty Trustee
Grant and Lori Hagedorn	Greeters
Craig McAllister and Dave Poleyestewa	Ushers
The McAllisters	Coffee Hour Hosts

Please see bulletin insert for announcements

**ANNOUNCEMENTS – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2008**

12/21/2008

**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 which may be used 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.

**DEADLINE** is today for the January 2009 *Churchmouse*.

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

**PLEASE PICK UP YOUR 2009 OFFERING ENVELOPES** from the Parish Hall buffet. Help save the church the expense of postage.

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

**KINDERGARTEN TEACHER AND WORKSHOP LEADER**("Games and Movement") are needed for the winter term. Please see Sarah LeGeyt if you are interested or want more information.

**COMING UP**

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

**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, conclude with the traditional candle light ceremony and the singing of "Silent Night."

**THE CHURCH OFFICE** will be closed Thursday and Friday for the Christmas holiday.

**CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES** *will not* meet next Sunday, 12/28.

**TEACHERS' MEETING:** Sunday, January 4, at 8:30 AM.