

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

December 28, 2008

10:00 AM

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

CHIMES

Karen Olejniczak

INTERESTS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

PRELUDE: "Impressions on a French Noel" -Fauré/Wagner
Duet: Mary Lou Keefe, organ; Bob Oswald, keyboard

CALL TO WORSHIP: (**responsively**)

Rejoice in God, who is our life and salvation.

Christ has come to make us heirs of God's promises.

God commanded, and we were created.

We are children of the Most High.

Praise God from the heights of heaven.

Praise God, all people of the earth.

God opens our eyes to see the light.

We will be called by a new name.

Men and women, youth and aged,

Sing of God's glory; shout your praise.

God has called us heirs of promise

We will praise God's holy name.

*HYMN 161 (*Chalice*)

"I Wonder as I Wander"

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

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

Faithful God, by whose Spirit all people and places become holy, lead us by that Spirit today. We have come to celebrate a birth that offers us rebirth. We have gathered that you might claim us as heirs, with Christ, of eternal life. Unite our hearts and minds in a chorus of praise, that the life of this church might be quickened, renewed, and refocused. May your faithful people become a crown of beauty in your hands. In Jesus' name we pray, and also saying, Our Father...

*GLORIA PATRI (*Chalice* # 35)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

RESPONSIVE READING #767 (*Chalice*) Psalm 147

OFFERTORY: "Silent Night"

-Gruber

Musicians: Jim Koplak, guitar; Lauren McAllister, oboe;
Bob Oswald, keyboard

Vocalists: Jen Connolly, Mary Lou Keefe, Linda McAllister,
Karen Needham, Judy Robinson

*DOXOLOGY (*Chalice* #46)

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

With joyous praise, we return to you a portion of all you have given to us. May our giving exceed the demands of the law. You have invited us to sacrifices befitting our blessings. You have asked us to care for those less privileged. What we offer in these moments is a beginning. We will ponder again your amazing grace in granting us life, in offering the child Jesus to bring us back to you, and in giving us the name "Christian." Praise be to you, O God. Amen.

*HYMN 159 (*Chalice*)

"There's a Song in the Air!"

A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

followed by THE PASTORAL PRAYER and ORGAN RESPONSE

*HYMN 164 (*Chalice*)

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:22-40 (Pew Bibles, N.T. p. 54)

SERMON:

"BELIEVING IS SEEING"

*HYMN 154 (*Chalice*)

"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

(*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
Lydia Petersen and Curt Johnson	Duty Deacons
Dave Heyer	Duty Trustee
Lydia Petersen	Greeter
Dan and Patti LeGeyt	Ushers

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THE FLOWERS today are given by the Goeben family in loving remembrance of those who now live with the Lord.

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 for any donation.

CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES do **not** meet today. They resume again next Sunday, January 4. **NURSERY CARE** is available today 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. Large print editions of the Chalice Hymnal are also available for use during worship.

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

PLEASE PICK UP 2009 OFFERING ENVELOPES on the buffet in the Parish Hall. Help save the cost of mailing. Thanks.

JUNIOR CHOIR does not rehearse today.

COMING UP

SENIOR CHOIR will not rehearse this week.

BELL CHOIR will not rehearse this week.

TEACHERS' MEETING: Next Sunday, 8:30 AM.

CONFIRMATION CLASS: Next Sunday, 11:45 AM – 1:15 PM.
 Please bring a bag lunch.



184 Cherry Brook Road – PO Box 133
 Canton Center CT 06020-0133
 Church Office 860-693-4581 Fax 860-693-4216
 E-mail cantoncenterchurch@snet.net
www.cantoncenterchurch.org