

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

March 15, 2009

10:00 AM

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

CHIMES

Bob Oswald

OFFERTORY: "Cast Thy Burden upon the Lord"
Senior Choir

-Harlan

INTERESTS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

PRELUDE: "If God Be for Us, Who Can Be against Us" -Handel

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP: **(responsively)**

The heavens are telling the glory of God.

The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

We celebrate the steadfast love of God, our Creator.

Surely God is faithful to all who live in covenant.

From the sun's rising to its setting, the creation speaks.

Day and night, earth's creatures announce God's works.

The commandments of God are clear, enlightening the eyes.

God's law is perfect, calling forth our best.

God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom.

God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The ordinances of God are true and righteous.

In following them, we gain wisdom and strength.

*HYMN 17 (*Chalice*)

"O Worship the King"

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

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

All-wise and all-loving God, we are drawn together in this place because all our knowledge and discernment is not enough to give meaning to our lives. All the pieces of our busy days need a center, and we have come to see that center in the "foolishness" of the cross. There, Love went the distance for us. There, the paths of service were lifted up above our passion for personal gain. We are frightened by what you might ask of us, but we long for the wholeness only you can offer. Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. In Jesus' name we pray, and also saying, *Our Father...*

*GLORIA PATRI (*Chalice* # 35)

*DOXOLOGY (*Chalice* # 46)

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

We bring our offerings, O God, not to buy your favor, but to express our gratitude, not to support an institution, but to further your mission. We support the church in its efforts to challenge the false wisdom that pervades our culture. We seek to make this community of faith a center of values that are consistent with your will. May we be zealous in your service, willing to sacrifice for love's sake, and eager to embrace your word in our everyday living. Amen.

*HYMN 545 (*Chalice*)

"He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought!"

A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

followed by the PASTORAL PRAYER and ORGAN RESPONSE

*HYMN 556 (*Chalice*)

"Trust and Obey"

SCRIPTURE: John 2:13-22 (Pew Bibles, N.T. p. 86)

SERMON:

"SPRING CLEANING"

*HYMN 197 (*Chalice*)

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE: "Sortie in D"

-Cesar Franck

(*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
Lydia Petersen and Curt Johnson	Duty Deacons
Linda Lareau	Duty Trustee
Scot Haney	Greeter
Donna and Charley Hammond	Ushers
The McAllisters	Coffee Hour Hosts

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THE FLOWERS today are given in memory of Dan Darling by his family.

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.

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

Please see bulletin insert for announcements



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS – SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2009

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

JUNIOR CHOIR: Today, 11:30 AM in the Music Room.

NEW MEMBER FORUM IS TODAY. The session will take place after church from 11:15 to 12:00, in the Corner Room, which is located downstairs next to the church offices. Our service of joining is scheduled to take place on Palm Sunday, April 5, during the 10:00 A.M. service. If you are unable to attend today, but would still like to join on April 5, please speak to Rev. Prichard to make other arrangements.

PALM SUNDAY POTLUCK – Sunday, April 5, after worship. Please sign up on the sheet on kitchen door to RSVP and indicate whether you will be bringing a vegetable/side dish or dessert. Rolls and beverages will be provided. We are also looking for volunteers to prepare hams and help set up the Parish Hall before church. Please contact Rachel Baugher at 693-0494 to help.

PLEASE TAKE AN “EGG” from the egg tree in the Parish Hall and bring in the item noted by March 29th. Easter baskets will be prepared by the JYF and Missions Committee this year for clients of the Canton Food Bank. Please place your donations in the marked basket under the information table in the Parish House.

ALL-CHURCH RETREAT SIGN-UPS continue at coffee hour today for the next weekend, March 20-22. This year's theme is "Count Your Blessings." Come to beautiful Silver Lake in Sharon, CT and enjoy a relaxing fun time. The cost will be \$50 for adults, \$40 for children 2-10 (\$200 family max.)

TALENT SHOW SIGNUPS. It's not too late for church school students to sign up to perform in the talent show on May 3. See Jim Koplak next Sunday.

DEADLINE is today for the April issue of *The Churchmouse* .

OUR MISSION COLLECTION for March is toiletries for men and women to be donated to My Sister's Place and South Park Inn.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN ENVELOPES are available in the Parish Hall. If you do not find any there for you, please contact Jane Watson in the church office.

Announcements, March 15, 2009, continued

COMING UP

SENIOR CHOIR: Monday, 7:00 PM.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY (Morning and Evening Sessions): Tuesday, 10:30 AM and 7:00 PM.

BELL CHOIR: Thursday, 7:00 PM.

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE: Next Sunday, 8:00 AM.

LENTEN WORKSHOP: “IT’S A MYSTERY!” POSTPONED until Monday, March 23, 5:30 PM. Sign up for pizza and discussion.

EASTER LILIES may be ordered during the coffee hours next Sunday, March 22, and also March 29. Lilies may be given in memory of, in honor of or in celebration of a loved one and will beautify our church at Easter Sunday services, April 12. See or call Phyllis Meeker, 673-8402. Lilies will cost \$11.50 each. Donors are kindly requested to leave their lilies until after the 10:30 AM Easter service.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING special mission offering of the United Church of Christ will be received next Sunday, March 22. This year's theme, "Where is your Treasure?" is inspired by Matthew 6:21: "Where your treasure is, there your heart will also be." This special mission offering of the United Church of Christ carries God's message of love and hope to people in more than eighty countries. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHs also supports ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday, April 5, Worship at 10:00 AM. Children will meet in the Parish Hall at 9:45 AM to line up for their processional into church. Worship will be followed by a potluck dinner.

Maundy Thursday, April 9, Worship at 7:30 PM including the service of Tenebrae.

Easter Sunday Worship Services, April 12, **9:00 AM and 10:30 AM**, with child care at 9:00 AM. Church School classes do not meet.