

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

March 22, 2009

10:00 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

CHIMES

Bill Thomas

INTERESTS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

PRELUDE: "But the Lord Is Mindful"

-Mendelssohn

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP: (**responsively**)

Light has entered our world. Rejoice!

Light is God's gift to each, and to all together.

**Give thanks to God for days of watchful care.**

**The steadfast love of God endures forever.**

Let those whom God has redeemed rejoice!

Let them tell the world of God's good news!

**We will thank God for wonderful works.**

**We will rejoice in God's love for all humankind.**

By God's word, we are delivered from destruction.

By God's mercy, we are healed and made whole.

**Our voices will join in songs of joy.**

**Our lives will offer sacrifices of thanksgiving.**

Amen.

**Amen.**

\*HYMN 322 (*Chalice*)

"O Word of God Incarnate"

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

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

**God of infinite patience, we call on you once more, knowing that you have every reason to question our coming together. We have worshipped without expectation. We have gathered without diligent preparation, as if meeting you laid no requirements on us. Amid the complexities of our lives, we have forgotten to set aside times to be still before you. Sometimes we feel as if we are bitten by snakes all week long, so we assemble here for some relief and healing. O God, will you meet us as we are? In Jesus' name we pray, and also saying, *Our Father...***

\*GLORIA PATRI (*Chalice* # 35)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

\*HYMN 340 (*Chalice*)

"Softly and Tenderly"

***The Church School children may pass to the Parish Hall when the congregation begins singing.***

OFFERING (including our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing)

Offertory Anthem: "O Holy Jesus"

Senior Choir

\*DOXOLOGY (*Chalice* # 46)

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

**For life-sustaining gifts that we so often take for granted – for shelter, food, and meaningful tasks to do; for your steadfast love that awakens us and raises us from our sinful ways; for your word that guides and heals us – we give you thanks, gracious God. As we invest a part of all you entrust to us to further the ministries of the church, may we show to others the immeasurable riches of your grace in Jesus Christ. Make this church a beacon of hope for the world. Amen.**

A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

followed by the PASTORAL PRAYER and ORGAN RESPONSE

\*HYMN 459 (*Chalice*)

"Lord, You Give the Great Commission"

SCRIPTURE: John 3:1-21 (Pew Bibles, N.T. p. 86)

SERMON: "YOU MAY ALREADY HAVE WON!"

\*HYMN 543 (*Chalice*)

"Blessed Assurance"

\*BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE

\*POSTLUDE: "The Lost Chord"

-Sullivan

(\*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 Matt Solomon	Duty Deacons
Katha Kerr	Duty Trustee
Earle and Peggy Young	Greeters
Harry and Eileen Lyons	Ushers
The Hagedorns	Coffee Hour Hosts

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

**THE FLOWERS** today are given by Casey Levine in loving memory of her parents, Jack and Susan Anderson.

**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



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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS – SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2009**

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING** special mission offering of the United Church of Christ will be received today during the morning offering. Checks may be made payable to this church with OGHS in the memo section. 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 mission offering 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.

### **NO CHERUB CHOIR TODAY.**

**JUNIOR CHOIR:** Today (note earlier time) at 11:15 AM in the Music Room.

**EASTER LILIES** may be ordered during the coffee hours today 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 second (10:30) Easter service.

**SYF EASTER CANDY** will be distributed during the coffee hour to those who placed orders.

**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 29<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## **Announcements, March 22, 2009, continued**

**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 Mrs. LeGeyt during the coffee hour.

**OUR MISSION COLLECTION** for March is toiletries for men and women to be donated to My Sister's Place and South Park Inn. This collection of toiletries will continue through April as well.

**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.

### **COMING UP**

**LENTEN WORKSHOP: "IT'S A MYSTERY!"**: Monday, 5:30 PM. Join the group for pizza supper and book discussion.

**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.

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

### **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.