

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

November 29, 2009

10:00 AM

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CHIMES

INTERESTS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

PRELUDE: "Now the Green Blade Rises" -Fr. carol/arr. Proulx

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP: (**responsively**)

The days are surely coming, says our God,
when justice and righteous will appear.

**God's promises will be made known to us,
and we will declare God's goodness and salvation.**

Lift up your souls in trust and praise;
open your hearts and minds to God's teaching.

**God's ways will be demonstrated to us,
and we will seek to walk in them all our days.**

Render thanksgiving to God for all life's benefits.

Watch and pray, in holiness and abiding faith.

**God's mercy and steadfast love will surround us,
and we will abound in love for one another.**

*HYMN 129 (*Chalice*) "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates"

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: **HOPE**

Candle Lighters: The Treadwell Family:
Joseph, Kimberli, Ryan and Connor

Readings

Unison Prayer: **O God, we thank you that Jesus brought hope into our world. By the good news of the Bible you are still bringing hope to people. Help us to be a source of hope to people everywhere who live in poverty of body, mind or spirit. Amen.**

HYMN (seated) (*Chalice #128, v. 1*) "One Candle is Lit"
**Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,
Our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light.
Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage.
One candle is lit for the hope of the age.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

***Church School children will be dismissed to the Parish Hall
after the Children's Message.***

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

(*No photography, please*)

MINISTER: Fellow members of this household of faith, I commend to your love this child whom we now receive as a member of the family of God. Will you endeavor to live so that he may grow in the knowledge and love of God, and of our Savior Jesus Christ? Will you support his parents in their efforts to guide their child in the way of the gospel, and to faithful service in Christ's church?

CONGREGATION: **We will endeavor to do so, and we promise our support.**

HYMN 365 (*Chalice*) (**seated**)

"Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters"

OFFERTORY: "Hark, the Glad Sound, the Savior Comes" -Lightfoot Senior Choir

*DOXOLOGY (*Chalice #46*)

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

Thank you, God, for this family of faith, which enriches our lives and enables us to share. Thank you for making us aware that some faint with fear and others dwell in hopelessness. We are grateful that you show us ways to lift the burdens of our sisters and brothers. May our offerings further this ministry among us and beyond our community. Amen.

A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION
followed by the PASTORAL PRAYER and
THE LORD'S PRAYER (in **unison**, using debts and debtors)

*HYMN **135** (*Chalice*) "Blessed Be the God of Israel"

SCRIPTURE: Luke 21: 25-36 (Pew Bibles, N.T. p. 78)

SERMON: "WHAT ABOUT TOMORROW"

*HYMN **125** (*Chalice*) "Come, O Long-expected Jesus"

*BENEDICTION and *RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly/ Coventry Carol" –arr. McFadden

(*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
Geri Bunnell and Curt Johnson	Duty Deacons
Lorinda Pane	Duty Trustee
Willi, Joseph and Sarah Bowman	Greeters

THE FLOWERS today are given in memory of Henry LeGeyt 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

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2009

WE ARE GRATEFUL to the Humphrey Family who donates the church's Christmas tree in memory of Harry Humphrey. Thanks to Jim Koplak and Bob Mankowski for putting up and lighting the tree. Hanging on the tree you will find "scrolls" and "stars" that describe the gift wishes of children and families in need. More "permanent" decorations will be new "winter woollies" (i.e. hats, scarves, mittens, gloves for children or adults). After Christmas, those items will be delivered to those in need. Please feel free to extend holiday wishes to our church family by hanging a Christmas card on the church tree.

ADVENT WORKSHOP & PIZZA LUNCH is today after coffee hour.

ADVENT RESOURCE BOOKLETS for families are available on the information table in the Parish House. Please help yourself.

CHERUB CHOIR, today, 11:15; **JUNIOR CHOIR**, today, 11:30.

PAGEANT ENSEMBLE will rehearse today after worship.

TICKETS FOR "A CHRISTMAS CAROL" performance in Riverton on Saturday, Dec. 5, may be picked up from Rachel at coffee hour. The performance is sold out so we cannot take any new orders but join us in Riverton for a great afternoon of Christmas activities.

JOIN US FOR THE 2010 BOAR'S HEAD FESTIVAL at the First Church, Winsted, on Sunday, January 10, at 4 PM (music begins at 3 PM). Ticket order form is posted on the kitchen door or with Rachel during coffee hour. Adult tickets \$15 (\$12 if we have a group of more than 20) – Seniors \$12 and Children \$5. Please sign up by Sunday, December 13, to ensure we can get tickets. Any questions, contact Rachel at 860-416-9360.

Bulletin Announcements, November 29, 2009, continued

MANY THANKS to the Potter and Hill families for hanging the wreaths and lighting the windows of our meeting house for the holidays.

COMING UP

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA PLANTS can be dedicated in memory of a loved one, in honor of someone special, or in celebration of a special occasion. Plants may be ordered following the morning service at coffee hour on December 6, and December 13. Phone orders are welcome by Dec. 15th as well; please call Jim Potter 860-693-1141 or Leslee Hill 860-693-1618. The cost per plant is \$9.00. A check payment should be made to the church. If you have any questions, please call Jim Potter 860-693-1141. The plants will decorate the worship services on December 20, and 24. Please leave your poinsettia until after the 7:30 service on December 24.

SENIOR CHOIR: Monday, 7:00 PM.

DIACONATE: Tuesday, 7:00 PM.

BELL CHOIR: Thursday, 7:00 PM.

PRIME TIMERS meet on Wednesday, December 9, at 11:00 AM in the Parish Hall for a Christmas potluck luncheon. The Canton High School Chamber Singers will present a musical program.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! PAGEANT DRESS REHEARSAL is Saturday, December 12, at 9:00 AM.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES will be held at 6:00 P.M. 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."