

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

December 6, 2009

10:00 AM

CHIMES

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Bob Oswald

INTERESTS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

PRELUDE: "Hush, My Babe"

-Kentucky carol/arr. Gray

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP: (**responsively**)

Listen! Listen for a messenger from God.

The way is being prepared for Christ's coming.

We are here to listen for a word from God.

We have gathered to prepare for Christ's advent.

Come with your joys and sorrows, laughter and tears.

There is a place for you in the company of seekers.

We thank God for our acceptance in the church.

We rejoice to offer the love of Christ to others.

We are partners in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Claim anew today this opportunity and responsibility.

We are glad God is doing great things among us.

We want to rejoin ourselves to God's work in the world.

*HYMN 115 (*Pilgrim*)

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: **PEACE**

Candle Lighters: Ned and Geri Bunnell

Readings

Unison Prayer: **O God, we thank you for this Prince of Peace.**

Show us how to spread the light of your peace in a world torn with conflict, so that wounds may be healed; intolerance turned to community; the clenched fist may become an open hand. Show us the ways of peace, O God, through the Christ Child, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

HYMN (seated) (*Chalice #128, v. 2*)

"One Candle is Lit"

Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare

For a gift that compels us with justice to care.

Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.

One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.

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 277 (*Pilgrim*) (seated) "Jesus, Friend, So Kind and Gentle"

OFFERTORY: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

-13th century plainsong/arr. Grant

Senior Choir

*DOXOLOGY (*Pilgrim # 515*)

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

How good you have been to us, gracious God! How meagerly we have responded. You have restored our fortunes when we felt all was lost. You have filled our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy. We give thanks, not only with a portion of our income, but also through renewed commitment to righteous living. By your grace, we share in the work Christ came to accomplish among us. May love abound in and through us. 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 111 (*Pilgrim*)

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

SCRIPTURE: Luke 3: 1-6 (Pew Bibles, N.T. p. 55)

SERMON: “THE TIME HAD COME”

*COMMUNION HYMN 107 (*Pilgrim*) “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER:

All who profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are welcome to receive the Bread and the Cup. The deacons will administer communion to the congregation as seated. We partake of the elements after all have been served, as one body in Christ.

*HYMN 104 (*Pilgrim*)

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

*BENEDICTION and *RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE: “When Will He Come?”

-Price/Besig

(*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
Cindy Griggs and Dan LeGeyt	Duty Deacons
Hugh Anderson	Duty Trustee
Craig and Linda McAllister	Greeters
Donna and Charley Hammond	Coffee Hour Hosts

THE FLOWERS today are given in memory of Sam and Allie Richardson, Carolyn Merriam, Bruce Richardson, and Bryant Merriam by Susan Lampros Merriam.

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.

Please see bulletin insert for announcements

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2009

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.

PLEASE JOIN US in the Parish Hall after worship for coffee hour.

PICK UP WREATHS TODAY during the coffee hour. Thanks to all who ordered wreaths to support this SYF fundraiser.

ON OUR CHURCH'S CHRISTMAS TREE you will find the remaining "trees" and "stars" that describe the gift wishes of children and families in need. **Please return those gifts by December 13, next Sunday.** More "permanent" decorations will be new "winter woollies" (i.e. hats, scarves, mittens, gloves for children or adults). All are welcome to extend holiday wishes to the church family by hanging a Christmas card on the church tree.

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 church at the coffee hour **TODAY** 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. If you have any questions, please call Jim Potter 860-693-1141. Please leave your poinsettia until after the 7:30 service on December 24.

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.

JOIN US FOR THE 2010 BOAR'S HEAD FESTIVAL at the First Church, Winsted, on Sunday, Jan. 10, at 4 PM (music begins at 3 PM). Ticket order form is 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, Dec. 13, to ensure we can get tickets. Any questions, contact Rachel at 860-416-9360.

2010 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the Parish Hall. If you do not find yours there, please contact the church office. Envelopes are available for anyone who wants to use them.

COMING UP

HONOR COURT will be hosted by our church in Hartford on Monday.

SENIOR CHOIR: Tuesday, 7:00 PM. (Change in day this week.)

MINISTER'S BOOK STUDY: Tuesday, 10:30 AM and 7:00 PM.

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE: Tuesday, 7:00 PM.

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

BELL CHOIR: Thursday, 7:00 PM.

PAGEANT DRESS REHEARSAL: This Saturday, 9:00 AM in the church.

MISSIONARY & STEWARDSHIP COMM.: Next Sunday, 8:30 AM.

PAGEANT PARTICIPANTS: Please arrive next Sunday at 9:15 AM for costuming in labeled classrooms. Then, attend church with your family.

MUSIC SUNDAY IS DECEMBER 20. Come and enjoy the sounds of the season featuring the Senior Choir, Junior Choir and the Cherry Brook Chimes Hand Bell Choir.

WARNING of a special meeting of the congregation to be held Sunday, December 20, 2009, after worship, to vote on the 2010 Operating Budget proposed by the Board of Trustees.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES will be held at 6:00 PM and 7:30 PM on Thursday, 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."

ALL-CHURCH RETREAT PLANNING COMMITTEE is forming for the Silver Lake retreat set for March 12, 13, 14. Contact Sarah LeGeyt if you would like to help with the plans.