

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

December 24, 2009

6:00 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE

CHIMES

Bob Oswald

PRELUDE: "What Child Is This?"

-Smith/Hustad

Piano and Organ Duet; Bob Oswald, piano

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT: "If I'd Been Around"

-Bozard

Cherub Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP (**responsively**):

Tyler Smith

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.

The grace of God has come to save us.

For our sakes, God sent the child of Bethlehem.

For our salvation, Jesus came to live among us.

Let all people sing for joy and give thanks.

Tell the world what God has done in our midst.

God has called and chosen us to hear good news.

God's marvelous works are new every morning.

Glory to God in the highest.

Peace on earth to all who please God.

We seek to honor God in this time of worship.

We want to see for ourselves what God has done.

*HYMN **132** (*Pilgrim*)

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER (using debts & debtors): Jamie Haberern

Out of deep shadows, we are attracted to your brightness, Glorious God. From the trauma of life's battles, we are drawn to the peace you alone can provide. Away from our irreligion and worldly passions, you invite us to center our lives in you. Come, Holy One, to reign among us. Bring the joy we cannot know apart from you. Lead us in the ways of righteousness that you intend. Establish among us your marvelous works that we might declare them to a waiting world. In Jesus' name we pray, and also saying, *Our Father...*

*GLORIA PATRI (*Pilgrim #513*)

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Jeff, Kathy, Tyler & Jonathan Smith

*HYMN **134** (*Pilgrim*)

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

*HYMN **137** (*Pilgrim*)

"Away in a Manger"

THE CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING

Offertory Anthem: "Silent Night" -Gruber/arr. Dobrinski

Cherry Brook Chimes; Linda Ripley, flute

*DOXOLOGY (*Pilgrim # 515*)

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

Emily LeGeyt

Thank you, God, for coming to us in a human life so expressive of love that two thousand years have not extinguished the flame. May that love burn so brightly in our lives that its fires will spread. Use our offerings to ignite in the world such caring and compassion that all your children may know joy and peace, in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE CANDLE LIGHT CEREMONY

ANTHEM: "O Holy Night"

-Adam/Dressler

*HYMN

"Silent Night"

**Silent night, Holy night, All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child,
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, Holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia,
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night, Holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

***PRAYER (in unison):**

Sam LeGeyt

We thank thee, O God, for the light that came into our world in the life of Jesus. We pray that His spirit be in our hearts; that the love that sent Him may dominate our lives, that the faith which all His life sustained Him may be kindled in us. Let us this night and always rejoice in that radiant light of your love that stooped to a stable and yet is more enduring than the stars...the light of Him who causes heaven and nature to sing with great joy. Amen.

***CANDLES EXTINGUISHED**

***HYMN**

“Joy to the World!”

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:

Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare him room,

And heaven and nature sing,

And heaven and nature sing,

And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace,

And makes the nations prove

The glories of his righteousness,

And wonders of his love,

And wonders of his love,

And wonders, wonders of his love.

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE**

***POSTLUDE: “Donkey Carol”**

-Rutter

(*All who are able, please stand)

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, 6:00 P.M.

Rev. Susan M. Prichard	Interim Minister
Mary Lou Keefe	Organist; Director of Music
Sarah LeGeyt	Director of Christian Education & Youth
Rick Hill	Duty Trustee

OUR APPRECIATION is extended to all that are participating in the service tonight:

Greeters/Ushers/Readers/Candle Bearers: Keith Goeben, Jamie Haberern, Emily LeGeyt, Sam LeGeyt, Mallory McCormick, Mac McCormick, Harrison Wasserbauer, Jonathan Smith, Tyler Smith, Chris Squier.

Members of the Diaconate.

Members of the Cherub Choir, directed by Judy Robinson.

Members of the Cherry Brook Chimes Bell Choir.

Lights Dimmer: Dr. Larry Carlton.

WE ARE GRATEFUL to those donors of the memorial poinsettias that grace our church tonight. Please leave your plant until after the **second** service. Any plants left after tonight will be available for pick-up during office hours this coming week or next Sunday.

THE OFFERING RECEIVED TONIGHT will support the Christmas Fund of the United Church of Christ. This special fund:

- provides Christmas grants to low income retired clergy and widowed spouses
- provides emergency grants
- supplements small pensions for low income retired clergy and widowed spouses
- subsidizes health plan costs for qualifying low income lay workers and clergy retirees.

WE WELCOME YOU on this blessed night and hope that our service will be meaningful for you. Also, to ensure that our Candle Light Ceremony be not only inspirational but also safe, we ask that you

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING:

THE CANDLE LIGHT CEREMONY:

The candles of the candle lighters are lit from the Christ Candle, which symbolizes our Lord, Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. They will bring their light to the first worshiper in each pew. **REMEMBER THAT THE LIGHTED CANDLE REMAINS UPRIGHT, AND THE UNLIGHTED CANDLE IS TIPPED TO THE LIGHTED. PLEASE BE CAREFUL.** Candles are to be extinguished after the prayer that follows the singing of “Silent Night.” Candles should be placed in the aluminum receptacles when exiting.

WHO MAY HAVE CANDLES. The church’s policy, for safety reasons, is that **NO ONE UNDER THE AGE OF TEN (10)** may receive a candle to hold during the candle lighting ceremony. However, a parent or adult guardian may share the holding of a candle with a young child during the candle light portion of the service. We hope that everyone will understand the need for this policy and will comply. Thank you!

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

December 24, 2009

7:30 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE

CHIMES

Lydia Petersen

PRELUDE: "What Child Is This?"

-Smith/Hustad

Piano and Organ Duet; Bob Oswald, piano

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT: "Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head" -John Jacob Niles/arr. Gallina
Senior Choir Ladies and Junior Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP (**responsively**):

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.

The grace of God has come to save us.

For our sakes, God sent the child of Bethlehem.

For our salvation, Jesus came to live among us.

Let all people sing for joy and give thanks.

Tell the world what God has done in our midst.

God has called and chosen us to hear good news.

God's marvelous works are new every morning.

Glory to God in the highest.

Peace on earth to all who please God.

We seek to honor God in this time of worship.

We want to see for ourselves what God has done.

*HYMN **132** (*Pilgrim*)

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

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

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

Out of deep shadows, we are attracted to your brightness, Glorious God. From the trauma of life's battles, we are drawn to the peace you alone can provide. Away from our irreligion and worldly passions, you invite us to center our lives in you. Come, Holy One, to reign among us. Bring the joy we cannot know apart from you. Lead us in the ways of righteousness that you intend. Establish among us your marvelous works that we might declare them to a waiting world. In Jesus' name we pray, and also saying, *Our Father...*

*GLORIA PATRI (*Pilgrim #513*)

ANTHEM: "Song of Bethlehem"

-Boersma/Ijames

Senior Choir

THE PROMISE OF HIS COMING

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 11:1-4

HYMN **110** (*Pilgrim*)

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

THE HOLY BIRTH

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:1-7

ANTHEM: "Baloo Lammy" - 17th cen. Scottish carol/arr. Gillespie
Senior Choir; Linda Ripley, flute descant

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Dan & Patti LeGeyt; Danny LeGeyt & Cory Deloy; Jennifer Mallia

HYMN **140** (*Pilgrim*)

"What Child Is This"

GOOD NEWS OF A GREAT JOY

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:8-16

ANTHEM: "Mary Did You Know"

-Lowry/Greene

Linda Ripley, soloist

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

HYMN **129** (*Pilgrim*)

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

THE CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING

Offertory Anthem: "Silent Night"

-Gruber/arr. Dobrinski

Cherry Brook Chimes; Linda Ripley, flute

*DOXOLOGY (*Pilgrim # 515*)

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

Thank you, God, for coming to us in a human life so expressive of love that two thousand years have not extinguished the flame. May that love burn so brightly in our lives that its fires will spread. Use our offerings to ignite in the world such caring and compassion that all your children may know joy and peace, in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE CANDLE LIGHT CEREMONY

“O Holy Night” (Adam/Dressler) Bill Thomas, soloist

*HYMN

“Silent Night”

**Silent night, Holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child, holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, Holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia,
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night, Holy night, Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

*PRAYER (in unison):

**We thank thee, O God, for the light that came into our world in the life of
Jesus. We pray that His spirit be in our hearts; that the love that sent Him
may dominate our lives, that the faith which all His life sustained Him may be
kindled in us. Let us this night and always rejoice in that radiant light of your
love that stooped to a stable and yet is more enduring than the stars...the
light of Him who causes heaven and nature to sing with great joy. Amen.**

*CANDLES EXTINGUISHED

*HYMN

“Joy to the World!”

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.**

*BENEDICTION and *RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE: “Donkey Carol”

-Rutter

(*All who are able, please stand)

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, 7:30 P.M.

Rev. Susan M. Prichard
Mary Lou Keefe
Sarah LeGeyt
Lorinda Pane

Interim Minister
Organist; Director of Music
Director of Christian Education & Youth
Duty Trustee

OUR APPRECIATION is extended to all that are participating in the service tonight:

Members of the Diaconate.

Members of the Senior Choir.

Members of the Junior Choir, directed by Betsy Ash.

Members of the Cherry Brook Chimes Bell Choir.

Lights Dimmer: Dr. Larry Carlton.

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