

Easter Sunday

April 24, 2011

9:00am and 10:30am

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

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April 24, 2011
9:00am and 10:30am**

Words for Quiet Reflection

*Today the whole creation, heaven and earth and
the deepest abysses of the earth are filled with joy.
Let the whole universe celebrate the resurrection
by which we are strengthened...
- John of Damascus*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

CHIMES

Karen Needham

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS...

INTERESTS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

PRELUDE *Processional on Lift High the Cross* -arr. Jordan

INTROIT 9:00 *Easter Song* -Keefe

Cherub Choir, directed by Judy Robinson

10:30 *Do You See that Man?* -Nagy

Junior Choir, directed by Betsy Ash

CALL TO WORSHIP (**responsive**) *based on Psalm 118*

This is the glorious day that the Lord has made,
and together we will rejoice and celebrate all its mercies!

We give thanks for the goodness to the Lord.

God's faithful and compassionate love lasts forever.

The Lord's strength has accomplished great things.

The Lord is my strength and my everlasting song.

Open all that separates us, so we may enter God's presence.

We gather to celebrate and rejoice in the mercies

of our God; and give thanks for God's mighty acts. Amen.

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*HYMN 182 (*Pilgrim*)

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

*HYMN 193 (*Pilgrim*)

Thine Is the Glory

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE *An Easter Carol*

*POSTLUDE *St. Anne*

-J.S. Bach

Our Worship is Ended... The Service Now Begins

(*All who are able, please stand)



TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 28:1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

FROM THE PASTOR

He is risen! He is risen indeed. It's Easter Sunday. It is arguably the most important day of the Christian calendar and it is a celebration of the central event of Christianity. Every year around this time I start to reflect on a couple of questions.

The first question is, was resurrection something that happened to the body of the crucified Jesus? Or was resurrection something that happened to his followers in the weeks and months and years following his crucifixion?

The second is, is resurrection something to be believed in? Or is resurrection an experience that turns one's life around, or upside down? Or, to put it another way, is resurrection a doctrine, or a lifestyle?

As I have reflected on these questions I have come to the understanding that Easter is not something to talk about, it is something to **do**, it is an attitude towards life and other people, it is a lifestyle. What is important is that we are 'Easter people', that is, people of transformation and renewal, people of hope, people of trust, people who not only believe but know deep within their experience that love comes again, and that love makes all the difference.

He is risen! He is risen for us, and in us, that with him we may continue his work of the healing and transformation of our broken world and its broken people. He is risen, and his hands are outstretched over us in blessing and empowerment, giving us what we need to do and be Easter people in the communities of our daily lives.

Blessings and peace

Rev. Rushan

**The Cross amid the lilies today has been fashioned by
Tim LeGeyt from the Church's Christmas tree.**

TODAY

Happy Easter to all!

Church School classes do not meet today. **Cherub and Junior Choirs** do not rehearse today. Child care is available for the 9:00am service.

Donors of memorial lilies are asked to please leave your lilies until after the **second** service this morning.

MONDAY

Pastoral Transition and Relations Committee, 6:00pm

Senior Choir: 7:00pm

TUESDAY

Pastor's Book Study, 10:30am

THURSDAY

Bell Choir, 7:00pm

FRIDAY

Confirmation Class meets at the church at 5:00pm to leave for their retreat at Wisdom House.

Pizza & Movie Night, 5:30pm

NEXT SUNDAY

Cherub and Junior Choirs do not rehearse.

Talent Show & Luncheon, 11:30am

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT

April 17, 2010

Weekly Amount needed... \$ 5,465

Last Week's Offering.....\$ 4,795

YEAR-TO-DATE OFFERING REPORT

through April 17, 2011

Amount needed for Budget...\$ 86,740

Year-to-date received.....\$ 58,078

We are very grateful for all who share in a generous way their Time, Talent & Treasure. Some do little things on a regular basis and others share in different ways. All contribute to building up the life of faith and the life of this community. Thank you for your continued giving and thank you to all of you who keep up with your pledges while you are traveling. Your support is appreciated.

PRIME TIMERS

Wednesday, May 11th

Meet at noon in the church Parish Hall for lunch and a program on Fidelco Guide Dogs.

Wider Church Fellowship events coming up
MOVIE (Up) & PIZZA NIGHT
This Friday, April 29, 5:30pm

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR
at the Warner Theater
Sunday, May 15, 2:00pm

Recognizing our Long-term Members:
Sunday, May 1st

Next Sunday we will be honoring members who have been part of this church family for 25, 40, 50, 70, and 75 years.

Enjoy the Talent Show and Luncheon
presented by the Church School next Sunday, May 1st

Come enjoy lunch and see all the great talent provided by the church school children. Jim Koplak and his side-kick Bob Mankowski will also add to the fun. This year we will ask for donations at the door. Proceeds benefit Canton Food Bank.

Note to the Talent: Please arrive at 8:45am for a run-through of the program

Annual Hand Bell Mini Fest
at Memorial United Methodist Church in Avon
Sunday, May 1st at 4:00pm

Four bell choirs from area churches including our own Cherry Brook Chimes will perform massed and solo pieces. The concert is free and open to the public, and there will be refreshments at the conclusion of the performance.

WELCOME

Thank you for joining us in worship today. Thank you for the gifts and the spirit you have brought to our time together and to our time of worship. Your presence and participation are an important part of shaping this experience of worship. Know that whoever you are and wherever you are in your journey of life and faith, you are welcome here!

If you are a guest here today, we would love for you to become a regular part of what God is doing in and through this church community. If you have any questions about this community, please ask the Pastor. Also, please let us know you were here by filling in the friendship card in your pew and placing it in the offering basket, or give it to a greeter.

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.

Nursery Care is available in the lower level of the Parish House during the 9:00am service today.



Ministers	Every Member
Pastor	Rev. Rushan Sinnaduray
Director of Christian Education & Youth	Sarah W. LeGeyt
Organist, Director of Music	Mary Lou Keefe
Duty Deacons	Joan Colglazier and Larry Minichiello
Duty Trustee (9:00)	Andy Kerr
Greeters (9:00)	Bill, Polly, Will and Liza Rice
Ushers (9:00)	Darryl and Jamie Haberern
Duty Trustee (10:30)	Skip Alford
Greeters (10:30)	Tom, Robin, Anna and Grace Owens
Ushers (10:30)	Tim and Cary LeGeyt

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