

Thank you for joining us in worship on this blessed night. Know that whoever you are and wherever you are in your journey of life and faith, you are welcome here!

***PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING***

All of tonight's offerings will benefit Klingberg Family Centers. You are welcome to use the Pew Envelopes for this purpose.

**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 reading 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!

## CHRISTMAS EVE – 6:00 PM

*Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.  
Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine,  
Love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.  
- Christina Rossetti*

CHIMES

Bob Oswald

PRELUDE     *“Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming/Good Christians All Rejoice”*  
Dillon Bowen - trumpet, Randy Doyle - horn, Bob Oswald - trombone,  
Rose Minichiello - baritone sax.

GREETING

INTROIT     *Mary had a Baby*

arr. Ralph Schultz  
Cherub Choir, Judy Robinson, Dir.

CALL TO WORSHIP (**responsively**)

Let us go, just as we are, to see what has happened.

let us go with the shepherds:

**let us go and find the One of whom the angels sang.**

Let us go with those who are wise:

**let us go and find the One who brings God's truth to us.**

Let us go with the poor in spirit, and in flesh;

let us go with those who are humbled by life:

**Let us find the Glory of God born in a stable, and placed in a feeding trough.**

Let us go with our friends and family,

let us go with our neighbors and with strangers,

let us go with all the children of God:

**let us go to find the One who comes to lead us home to God's kingdom.**

O come, let us go to the Babe of Bethlehem; O come, let us adore him!

**Christ our Lord!**

**\*HYMN 132** (*Pilgrim*) O Come, All Ye Faithful

**O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;  
O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  
O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

**Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,  
We would embrace Thee, with love and awe;  
Who would not love Thee, loving us so dearly?  
O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.  
O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**CANDLE LIGHTERS:** Bob, Brenda, Nolan & Slater Franks

Hope, peace, joy, and love. Four candles, four promises continually offered to us by God, and all of them manifest in this one we light tonight: the Christ candle. In Christ we find the hope of transformation, the peace that follows justice, the joy of self-fulfillment in community, and the love that encompasses us in all our diversity, empowering us to make our own unique contribution to this world. In Christ we find light and life, and the courage to be like him, answering his call and following in his footsteps.

HYMN (seated)     *“A Candle is Burning”*

**We honor our Messiah with Christ candle’s flame,  
Our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.  
O Come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,  
As God comes among us, the Christian’s true light.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

**We rejoice in God’s steadfast presence in our lives, and in God’s unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth—born of Mary, growing through childhood into an adult ministry, in all his life manifesting the peace, love, and justice of God; his voice undimmed by the centuries his call and his promise as clear to us as it was to his disciples so long ago. Come to us, Lord Jesus, Be born in us this night, in our hearts, our minds, our lives. May the light of your life be kindled in us, And lead us to the shining truth, of God with us, God for us, God in us. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING     Luke 2:1 – 14

Jon Smith

A CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

\*HYMN 134 (*Pilgrim*) O Little Town of Bethlehem

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth!**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is giv’n;  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His Heav’n.  
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Offertory Anthem: *Still, Still, Still*

trad. German Carol  
Arr. Kathy Moklebust  
Cherry Brook Chimes

\*DOXOLOGY (Pilgrim #515)

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

**Glory to God in the highest heaven! We praise your name with our offerings. We give these gifts in recognition of Jesus, a tiny babe who from humble birth was created great in your light. Thank you, Gracious God, for pure, unbounded love wrapped in clothes laying in a manger - a gift so great to share that it could not be contained. Let the joy we feel in our hearts overflow in unending praise. Amen.**

THE CANDLE LIGHT CEREMONY

ANTHEM *O Holy Night*

Adam  
Jerry Alonzy- 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.**

\*THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL John 1:1 – 14

\*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.**

**\*CLOSING PRAYER** (in **unison**)

**Glory to God,  
whose power working in us,  
can do infinitely more  
than we can ask or imagine.  
Glory to God from generation to generation,  
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*RESPONSE**

**\* POSTLUDE**      *Donkey Carol*

Rutter

**Our appreciation** is extended to all participating in tonight's service:

*Greeters/Ushers/Readers/Candle Bearers:* Members of the Confirmation Class

*Members of the Cherub Choir,* directed by Judy Robinson.

*Members of the Ensemble.*

*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 **Christmas Day** service. Any plants left after worship on Christmas Day will be available for pick-up during office hours this coming week or next Sunday.

Ministers	Every Member
Pastor	Rev. Rushan Sinnaduray
Director of Christian Education & Youth	Sarah W. LeGeyt
Organist, Director of Music	Mary Lou Keefe
Duty Deacons	Donna Hammond and Larry Minichiello
Duty Trustee	Dave Heyer
Greeters/Ushers	Confirmation Class

184 Cherry Brook Road – PO Box 133  
Canton Center CT 06020-0133  
Church Office 860-693-4581  
E-mail: [office@cantoncenterchurch.org](mailto:office@cantoncenterchurch.org)  
[www.cantoncenterchurch.org](http://www.cantoncenterchurch.org)