

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 **Nursery Care** is available in the lower level of the Parish House.

Large print editions of the worship bulletin are available on the Ushers' tables. Large print copies of the *Chalice* hymnal are also available for use during worship.

After Worship: Please join us for refreshments in the fellowship hall, stay around, visit with friends and meet someone new!



The flowers today are given in loving memory of Mert by Phyllis Meeker.

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	John Parshley
Greeters/Ushers	Steve, Kathy & Claire Byko
Coffee Hour Hosts	Diaconate

Please see inside for announcements.

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

The First Congregational Church Canton Center, Connecticut

(United Church of Christ)

January 22, 2012 – 10:00AM

Third Sunday after Epiphany



Words for Silent Reflection

"Baptism is, in fact, much more than a ritual conferring membership in a community, as many people conceive it nowadays. It is a process of birth, through which a new dimension of life opens out."

- Peter Seewald, *God and the World*

CHIMES

Karen Needham

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS...

INTERESTS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

PRELUDE

Andante Grazioso

W. A. Mozart

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP (**responsively**)

On that first day, when time began:

**you gave birth to creation;
light danced through the darkness;
the waters of hope flowed free and clear.**

On that first day at the Jordan, when redemption began:

**you spoke of life for all your children,
as your Child stepped into the waters of forgiveness,
dancing in hope with his cousin, John.**

On this first day of the week, when we begin anew:

**you call us to faithfulness,
as we open our hearts to you,
your voice claiming us as your own.**

*HYMN **223** (*Pilgrim*) *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

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

Followed by THE LORD'S PRAYER (in **unison**, using debts and debtors)
Eternal God, reigning over the universe and in our hearts, we worship and praise you. Through you comes the energy by which the world was made - through you the darkness is overcome and the light shines. And yet, in the midst of your greatness, you chose to reveal your power and glory. We praise and adore you, O God, for revealing your love so fully for us in Jesus, and for renewing our lives with your Spirit. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ who taught us to pray, saying, *Our Father...*

*GLORIA PATRI

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Regan Anna Murphy, daughter of **Edward and Beth (Regan) Murphy**, is presented for baptism.

PASTOR: As members of Christ's universal church you are about to receive Regan into membership. Will you surround Regan and her family with love, nurture and encourage her in the faith, and with God's help make this a place where all may grow in the knowledge and love of Christ?

CONGREGATION: We will, with great joy we welcome Regan into the church.

THE BAPTISM

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

We thank you, loving God, for the miracle of birth, for the gift of children and the richness that family life can bring. Bless Regan and her family. Give to Edward and Beth the faith and wisdom to fulfill their responsibility.

We remember with gratitude our own baptism. Help us live lives worthy of this high calling. May your Spirit continually be at work within us so that we may be channels of love and peace. Amen.

HYMN (see inside bulletin) *Welcome the Child*

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD...

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:4 – 11

HYMN **115 (*Pilgrim*) On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry
*The church school children may pass to their classrooms
when the congregation begins singing.*

SERMON

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

Followed by PASTORAL PRAYER and SUNG RESPONSE (*Pilgrim 437*, vs. 4)

OFFERTORY

Shall We Gather at the River

arr. John Carter
Senior Choir

*DOXOLOGY (*Pilgrim #515*)

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

O God, open our ears and hearts to hear your call to follow Jesus. Receive and bless our lives and these gifts - may they be devoted to sharing the love of Christ with all whom we meet. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

*HYMN **93** (*Pilgrim*)

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

*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

Oh What Their Joy and Glory Must be

Robert Powell

CALENDAR:

TODAY, January 22

Junior Choir, 11:15 am

Mission Soup during Coffee Hour

JYF Grinder Sale during Coffee Hour

Monday, January 23

Senior Choir, 7:00pm

Thursday, January 26

Bell Choir, 7:00 pm

Saturday, January 28

Senior/Junior Youth & Fellowship ski trip

7:00 am – 6:00 pm

Sunday, January 29

JYF Grinder Sale during coffee hour

Mission Soup Sale during coffee hour

Junior Choir 11:15 am

Mission Trip meeting TODAY

11:00 am

All Students grade 8-12 and their parents are invited to attend the Mission Trip meeting today after church. We will be meeting in the Corner Room

SECOND ANNUAL SOUP SALE TODAY, SUNDAY JANUARY 22, 2012

We had great response to our first soup sale last year. \$371 was raised for Food Share and the Connecticut Food Bank. This year proceeds will go to those two organizations and help defray the cost of food and paper goods for a breakfast for the hungry at Center Church in Hartford.

JYF SUPER BOWL GRINDER SALE

Order grinders for game day from the JYF during Coffee Hour TODAY, January 22nd or next Sunday, January 29th. Choose from turkey, ham or Italian combo. Pick up your Grinders on Game Day, February 5th !



There will be an Information Session regarding the Land purchase offer by Lans Perry to be held after the service today.

MISSION BOX



It is now January and we would like to collect cleaning supplies: **paper towels, toilet paper, disinfecting spray, laundry detergent, Windex, etc.** for two shelters: South Park Inn in Hartford and Susan B. Anthony in Torrington.

SOMERS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

You may have heard the news of the meetinghouse of the Somers Congregational Church UCC being destroyed by fire late on New Year's Day.

We can help them in several ways. We will continue to keep the leaders, members and friends of the Somers Congregational Church in our prayers. We can also provide assistance with those financial burdens which are beyond their coverage. To that end we will have an opportunity for members of our church to provide financial support to them. You can place your donation in the specially marked boxes in the sanctuary. Please make checks out to "The First Congregational Church, Canton Center" and write "Somers Congregational UCC" on the memo line. You can also make donations online by going to the CT Conference's website at: www.ctucc.org.

YOUTH SKI TRIP to Jiminy Peak on Saturday, January 28th. JYF and SYF will head north to enjoy a day of skiing or boarding. Tickets will be \$40 each. Please sign up on the SYF board outside the church office. **MONEY AND PERMISSION SLIPS ARE DUE IN THE OFFICE TODAY.** Drivers needed! See Mr. Koplak if you have questions.

FROM THE PASTOR

Today we baptize Regan Murphy. Baptism is one of the central sacraments of our faith. Being a Christian, being baptized or having your children baptized, is a matter of intentional choice because it is something you wish to stand for and to pass on to the next generation, rather than a cultural or social obligation. It is a subversive act in that it can be seen as counter-cultural in our post-modern, individualistic, acquisitive society.

In a society and culture which says you can believe any mixture of anything you wish, baptism and consciously choosing to be Christian says, "I put my trust, and I find meaning and purpose for life, specifically in the loving, self-giving, passionate way of Jesus".

In a society and culture which says the individual is paramount and the rights of the individual are supreme, baptism and choosing to be Christian says, "I am part of something bigger than myself, I am part of an 'Us' and the needs of others often come before my own rights and wants".

In a society and culture that says big is best, baptism and choosing to be Christian honors the small, the insignificant, the overlooked, the demeaned and the marginalized.

In a society and culture which condemns those who fall from grace, which delights in publishing the salacious details of individual failures or tragedies, baptism and being Christian says a new beginning is always possible, nobody is ever beyond the pale.

In a society and culture that idolizes success and winning, baptism and being Christian says it is the journey, not the destination that matters; it is the quality we find in the here and now rather than the quantity that might be gained by winning that truly matters.

Baptism and being Christians affirms service over achievement, sacrifice and self-giving over acquisition and accumulation.

Baptism and being Christian affirms hope in place of despair, goodness in place of evil, trust in place of anxiety, peace in place of war, love in place of hate, oneness with God in place of estrangement from that which is at the heart of life.

Baptism and being Christian are about being truly human, not holier-than-thou; about trusting relationships, not game-playing and manipulation; and about wonder at the sheer goodness of life despite its sorrows and contradictions.

Blessings and peace

Rev. Rushan

HYMN

Welcome the Child (*Tune: Hush-A-Bye Baby*)

Welcome the child who comes to be blessed,
Welcome the faith that makes the request,
Welcome the words that Jesus would say:
"Bring her, and never turn her away!"

Joy-bringer God, new life is our joy!
Gift him with hope no hurt can destroy,
Keep him clear-eyed to wonder and trust,
Finding a people gentle and just.

Bless her by water, Spirit and sign,
Bring her to share the bread and the wine,
Draw her like frond of fern uncurled,
Open to love and life in your world.

Give her a Church with family claim,
Closeness to Christ, not only in name,
Make her a source of light and delight –
Baptism's grace with baptism's rite.

Words: Shirley Murray, © 1996 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-718611

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:4 – 11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

From the New Revised Standard Version, ©1989, 1995, Division of Christian Education of The National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission.