



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

United Church of Christ
14 Brookside Road, Darien, CT 06820
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FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS ***December 31, 2017*** ***10:00 a.m.***



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Children are always welcome at our worship services.
A drop-off Nursery is available to children age 2 and younger,
in the Nursery School wing starting at 9:45 a.m.

****Those who are able are invited to stand.***

PRELUDE

Mr. Maxim Pakhomov

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dale Rosenberger, Senior Minister

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***HYMN #158**

“GOOD CHRISTIANS ALL, REJOICE”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(responsively)

Praise God, all you who dwell on the earth.

Praise God, in all heights and depths of life.

Who has shown the mercy of the Lord?

We shall recount the deeds of our God.

Praise God, sun and moon, comets and stars!

Yes, praise God, fire and hail, snow and frost!

Our gracious Lord tells of bringing his redemption.

By God’s steadfast love, we are drawn into worship.

All women and men, aged and youth,

sing out God’s glory; shout out praise!

God has made us heirs of his promise.

Our tribute springs from its fulfillment.

***OPENING PRAYER**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

(unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**



Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be-
gin-ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with-out end. A - men. A - men

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

ISAIAH 61:10-62:3

Mandy Teare, Deacon

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication, (continued)

and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

***HYMN #150**

“AWAY IN A MANGER”

GOSPEL LESSON

MATTHEW 2:11-25

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my son.’

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

‘A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.’ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, ‘He will be called a Nazorean.’

SERMON

“WHEN PEACE ON EARTH BROKE OUT”

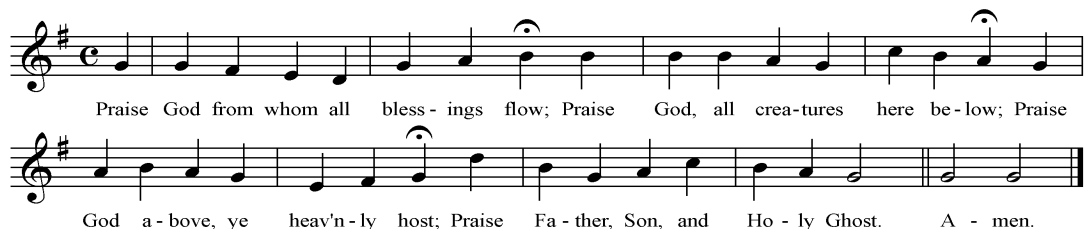
Rev. Rosenberger

OFFERTORY

“NIGHT OF SILENCE”

(1914)

***DOXOLOGY**



Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise God, all crea - tures here be - low; Praise
God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

(unison)

O God of Wonders, as we recount your gracious deeds and praiseworthy acts, we are moved to imitate you. Because of your mercy and favor, because of your plenteous and constant love, we are moved to respond. Thank you for the gift of life, for all you entrust to us, for watchful care over us, for surrounding us with love when we feel pangs of hurt. Amen.

***HYMN #138**

“WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS”

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Mr. Pakhomov

*It is our custom at First Church to share quietly in our Postlude, as our final act of praise.
We invite you to remain seated with us.*

* * *

TODAY'S USHERS are Phil Meyer, Mandy Teare and Liz Werner.

**THE CHRISTMAS FUND FOR THE VETERANS OF THE CROSS AND THE
EMERGENCY FUND – RECEIVED THIS MORNING**

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ that grants us an opportunity to recognize and honor those who have served and continue to serve in lay and authorized ministries of the United Church of Christ.

Through the generosity of so many UCC congregations and individuals across the country, the Pension Boards' Ministerial Assistance program is able to provide, on behalf of the whole Church, Pension Supplementation, Health Premium Supplementation, Emergency Grants, and Christmas “Thank You” Gift Checks to individuals and families in need.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

We are still looking for more Church School teachers, subs, and one-time speakers! If you have a talent you are willing to share with the Church School at FCC, please email cgeeding@uccdarien.org.

There will be no Church School or Nursery on 31st.

The library will be open if parents need a quiet place to go with their child.

BIBLE STUDY / THE BOOK OF ACTS

Please join us for a 10-week examination of some of the best-known stories from the book of Acts and a discussion about what they tell us about our lives today.

All are welcome regardless of their background in the Bible.

If you can only attend a few of our sessions, that is perfectly fine! Please come anyway. This is a great way to understand how the Bible has relevance to everyone today.

The meetings will be on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Morehouse Room.

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you made a pledge for 2017, your Offering Envelopes are available for pick-up and can be found near the stage, in the Parish Hall. If you do not see envelopes with your name, and would like offering envelopes, please contact Karen Hansen at KHansen@uccdarien.org.

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

The First Congregational Church Nursery School is registering children for 2018-19. Teri Manning is offering tours weekdays at 10:00 and there will be an Open House on January 7th, 2 - 3:30. Please call the school at 203 655-3150 for more information. Church members receive priority placement!

THE CLASSICS BOOK GROUP

The Classics Book Group will be meeting on Wednesday, January 17 in the library at 3:30. We will be talking about Turgenev's Fathers and Sons. This announcement is very late, but the book is short - try us out: Interesting people and thoughtful, relaxed discussions. Sally Bassler [203-655-9658](tel:203-655-9658) or sbassler13@gmail.com

Hymns of Truth & Light

Christmas is a wonderful time to dedicate a hymnal to someone special with a bookplate!

The cost of adding a personalized bookplate is \$25 per hymnal. Please fill out the following form, printing clearly so that your name and that of a loved one are readable and reproducible on a bookplate:

Your Name: _____ Email _____

>>To honor the memory of a loved one:

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____

>>To celebrate someone special:

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____

>>To dedicate a meetinghouse hymnal(s) in your family name:

Your family name: _____

>>Other wording: _____

Total number of hymnals ordered above: _____

Total amount due with this order: \$ _____ (Price: \$25 each)

(Please make check out to First Congregational Church of Darien, with "hymnal" in the memo section, and leave it and the form in the church office.)

Thank you! Through your purchase, you are helping subsidize the cost of these hymnals to the church.



CHURCH CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

Bible Study/Book of Acts 9:30 a.m. in the Morehouse Room

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

Care, Connect & Communicate Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Morehouse Room

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

Worship Services at 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.

(Don't forget Food First!)

Ministers: Every member of the congregation.

Clergy and Staff:

The Rev. Dale B. Rosenberger, *Senior Minister (emergency pager) 1- (203) 368-7789*

The Rev. Gary M. Morello, *Associate Minister*

The Rev. Ronald T. Evans, *Pastor Emeritus*

Christine Geeding, *Director of Christian Education*

Daniel Hague, *Music Director* Maxim Pakhomov, *Organist*

Teri Manning, *Nursery School Director* Karen Hansen, *Treasurer*

Pamela Toason, *Church Administrator (M, T)* Dennis Hanlon, *Church Administrator (W, Th, Fri)*

Carlos Maya, *Weekday Sexton* Ruth Salazar, *Sunday Sexton*

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