



**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN**

United Church of Christ  
14 Brookside Road, Darien, CT 06820  
Phone: 203-655-0491 Fax: 203-655-7620  
E-mail: [office@uccdarien.org](mailto:office@uccdarien.org)  
[www.uccdarien.org](http://www.uccdarien.org)



***FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT***

***November 27, 2016***

***8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.***

*Advent*  
**HOPE**

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***8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.***

*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**

Mr. Gary M. Morello, Associate Minister

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**\*HYMN**

“O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL”

*(next page)*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

The days are surely coming, says our God,  
When justice and righteousness will appear.

**God’s promises will be made known to us,  
And we will declare God’s goodness and salvation.**

Lift up your souls in trust and praise;  
Open your hearts and minds to God’s teaching.

**God’s ways will be demonstrated to us,  
And we will seek to walk in them all our days.**

Render thanksgiving to God for all life’s benefits.  
Watch and pray, in holiness and abiding faith.

**God’s mercy and steadfast love will surround us,  
And we will always look to hope despite circumstance.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

Mr. Morello

**\*LORD’S PRAYER**

**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.**

# O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

*In unison*

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by thine  
 3 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, And or - der all things,  
 4 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples in one

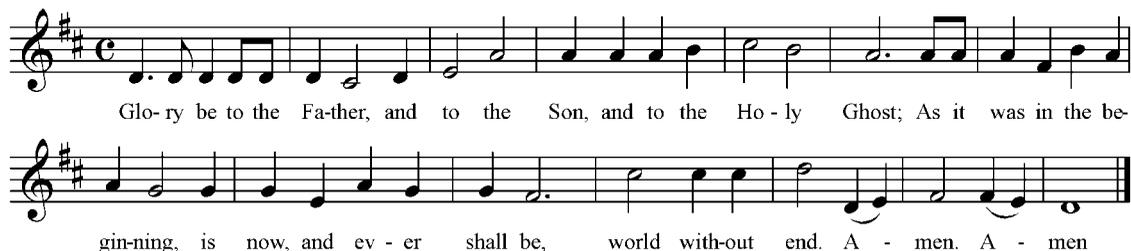
Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, Un -  
 ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, And  
 far and nigh; To us the path of knowl - edge show, And  
 heart and mind; Bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease; Fill

REFRAIN

til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
 cause us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -  
 the whole world with heav - en's peace.

man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el! A - men.

## \*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

### THE FIRST CANDLE OF ADVENT – “HOPE”

CANDLE LIGHTERS: Marianne Lauer (8:30 a.m.) and the Sheed family (10:00 a.m.)

#### DEACON INTRODUCTION

Marianne Lauer (8:30), Phil Meyer (10:00)

#### ADVENT PRAYER (RESPONSIVE)

Family Member: This is a season for planning. We make lists of tasks, friends and family to visit, and holiday food to cook. Great hopes lie at the root of all our planning. Our fertile minds are opening, bringing forth visions of our deepest longings.

**Congregation: Yet, planning makes us vulnerable to hurt and to our own deepest fears. Sometimes, our hopes begin to form but do not take shape. Sometimes, they lie dormant in our dreams.**

Family Member: Even so, in the mixture of hope and despair, God is always with us, gathering us in, comforting our broken hearts, gently leading us to new possibilities, and rejoicing with us.

**Congregation: As we come to worship God, we light the first Advent candle. We are aware that our planning reflects our deepest hopes and our trust. These bear witness to God’s promise of new life. We are not afraid to speak out now, to tell the world that a God-sent baby is coming!** (*Worship Ways, Eden Theological Seminary Students, 2005, Worship & Education Ministry Team, Local Church Ministries, UCC*)

**All: O God, you have caused this world to shine with the illumination of the true Light. You have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon Him to reveal to us your glory and grace. As you have given this gift in love, may we receive it with joy. Grant that we, being regenerated and made your children by adoption and grace; be renewed daily by your Holy Spirit. Grant us, we pray, that as we have known the mystery of that light upon earth, so may we also reflect that light to a darkened world; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

PSALM 25:1-10

Marianne Lauer, Deacon (8:30)  
Phil Meyer, Deacon (10:00)

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust;

do not let me be put to shame;

do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;

let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord;

teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation;

for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

according to your steadfast love remember me,

for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

Good and upright is the Lord;

therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right,

and teaches the humble his way.

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,

for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

1. This is a day of new be - gin - nings,  
 2. For by the life and death of Je - sus,  
 3. Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing,  
 4. Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us

time to re - mem - ber and move on,  
 love's might - y Spir - it, now as then,  
 step from the past and leave be - hind  
 to show and share what love can do.

time to be - lieve what love is bring - ing,  
 can make for us a world of dif - f'rence  
 our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt and griev - ing,  
 This is a day of new be - gin - nings -

lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.  
 as faith and hope are born a - gain.  
 seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.  
 our God is mak - ing all things new.

**GOSPEL LESSON**

LUKE 21:25-36

Mr. Morello

‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’

**SERMON**

“H.O.P.E.”

Mr. Morello

**OFFERTORY** PLAINSONG: CREATOR OF THE STARS OF NIGHT(9TH CENTURY)  
OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN(13TH CENTURY)  
(10:00 only) Senior Choir

**\*DOXOLOGY (10:00 only)**

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 (10:00 only)***(unison)*

**As our love for one another increases and abounds, so does our generosity. The circle of our concern widens. Our passion for hope expands. Our desire to join in Christ’s redeeming work extends to the whole human family. What a privilege to have so much to share. May these offerings further the ministry of our church as well as those God would have us serve. Amen.**

\*HYMN

“IF YOU WILL TRUST IN GOD TO GUIDE YOU”

1. If you will trust in God to guide you, and hope in God through  
2. God will embrace your pain and weep-ing, your help-less an-ger  
3. Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un-serv-ing; so do your own part

all your ways, God will give strength, what-e'er be-tide you,  
and dis-tress. If you are in God's care and keep-ing,  
faith-ful-ly, and trust God's word; though un-de-serv-ing,

and bear you through the e-vil days. Who trusts in God's un-  
in sor-row will God love you less? For Christ, who took for  
you'll find God's pro-mise true to be. God nev-er will for-

chang-ing love builds on the rock that will not move.  
you a cross, will bring you safe through ev-ery loss.  
sake in need the soul that trusts in God in-deed.

\***BENEDICTION**

Mr. Morello

**POSTLUDE**

Mr. Pakhomov

\* \* \*

**TODAY'S GREETERS** are Doug Kline, Annette Madden-Kline, Addison (Confirmand) and Thea.

**TODAY'S USHERS** are Lou Converse, Marianne Lauer (8:30), Phil Meyer and Mandy Teare.

**WELCOME TO THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN**

We are an accepting community where faith in Christ makes a difference. We welcome you to worship with us wherever you are on your journey. As a spiritual home, our hallmarks are education, fellowship and pastoral care. Children have a special place in our church family, and are embraced with love, guidance and opportunities for spiritual growth. We are a church of conscience, unafraid of the issues of today and serving as a reconciling force among different faiths.

**CHURCH CALENDAR**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30**

Day Wings, 12:00 p.m. in the Circle Room

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1**

Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. in the Morehouse Room

Senior Choir, 8:00 p.m.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 – 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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

*Ministers:* Every member of the congregation.

*Clergy and Staff:*

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

Gary M. Morello, *Associate Minister*

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

Mary Jo Colman, *Church School Director*

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*

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN HELPS!

#### PLEASE JOIN US!

**Food First!** Please bring your non-perishable food items to church on Sunday, December 1st! Food will be distributed to local shelters.

#### ***Dove Boxes! The holiday season is upon us and therefore so are Dove Boxes!***

This year marks the 48th anniversary of the Person-to-Person Dove Box Program, which is enthusiastically supported by area churches. Dove boxes provide holiday food to families and seniors in need in our community, while also giving individuals and families the opportunity to share their blessings with their neighbors at Christmas. This is a wonderful opportunity to help your children understand the joy of giving during the Christmas season. Participation is open to anyone and may involve preparing a wrapped carton of food or can be as simple as making a direct donation to families/adults through Person to Person.

Parishioners wishing to participate need only select a White or Green Dove on any **Sunday after Service (Starting November 20, 2016)**, follow directions printed on it and bring joy into another home this Season.

**White Dove:** Fill a box with food and love for Christmas Day. All necessary food items and directions are on the reverse side of the Dove. A \$15.00 contribution is required so Person-to-Person can purchase a supermarket gift card for each family to buy their own choice of meat. Fill in the back dove with your name, address & telephone number and return it (along with the \$15.00) to either Annette Madden-Kline or Gayle Appleby of the Board of Outreach (details below)

**Green Dove:** A financial contribution to Person-to-Person's Scholarship or Emergency Assistance Fund. Scholarship will enable eager students to continue their education. Emergency Assistance Fund will help someone with a fuel bill, rent or a medical bill not covered by Medicaid. Please mail your financial contribution directly to Person-to Person.

**RETURN** your filled, closed, wrapped box to the Morehouse Room in Parish Hall on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016. If you have any questions regarding the Person-to-Person Christmas Dove Program, please contact **Annette Madden-Kline at [a\\_madden-kline@yahoo.com](mailto:a_madden-kline@yahoo.com)** or **Gayle Appleby @ [gayleappleby@applebycapital.com](mailto:gayleappleby@applebycapital.com)**.

Thank you for your hands on help for those in need!



**All Are Invited!**  
**Advent Workshop and Family Dinner**  
**Sunday, December 4th, 4:00-6:30 p.m.**

The Board of Christian Education invites you, your family and friends to join us on Sunday, December 4 for our annual Advent Workshop and Family Dinner. From 4:00-5:00 p.m., we'll socialize and make homemade Christmas tree ornaments -- some for small trees to be shared with members of our church and some for our trees at home. From 5:00-5:30 p.m., we'll gather together for carols and Christmas cheer. Then we'll have a family potluck dinner from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Please click on the link below to RSVP and please sign up to bring something to share. We are asking for a donation of \$5 per person or \$20 per family to cover the cost of the main dishes (ham and chicken nuggets), the music, and event materials. Also, feel free to bring a libation of choice to share!

[www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090C4AAAAF2EA4F58-advent](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090C4AAAAF2EA4F58-advent)

**Questions: Please e-mail Andy Huntington at:**  
[andreatkinson101@hotmail.com](mailto:andreatkinson101@hotmail.com)



***Join Us As We Celebrate Advent!***

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

*(remember Food First!)*

Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.  
Lighting of the Second Advent Candle – “PEACE”  
Advent Celebration, 4:00-6:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.  
Lighting of the Third Advent Candle – “LOVE”  
Christmas Candlelight Concert, 7:00 p.m. in the Meetinghouse

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.  
Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle – “JOY”  
Christmas Pageant, 11:00 a.m.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE**

Family Service, 2:30 p.m.  
Family Service, 4:00 p.m.  
“Come As You Are” Service, 5:30 p.m.  
Service of Lessons and Carols, 10:00 p.m.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY**

Service of Hymns and Poetry, 10:00 a.m.

***Bring a Friend!***  
***All are welcome!!***