



**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: [info@uccdarien.org](mailto:info@uccdarien.org)  
[www.uccdarien.org](http://www.uccdarien.org)



***SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT***

***December 4, 2016***

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

*Advent*

PEACE

# SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 4, 2016

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

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

“COMFORT, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE”



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, Speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth In the des - ert far and near,  
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, Make the rough - er pla - ces plain;



Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness Mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load.  
Bid - ding all men to re - pent - ance Since the king - dom now is here.  
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be - fits his ho - ly reign.



(cont'd)

COMFORT, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE (cont'd)

Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;  
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
For the glo - ry of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

Tell her that her sins I cov - er, And her war - fare now is o - ver.  
Let the val - leys rise to meet him And the hills bow down to greet him.  
And all flesh shall see the to - ken That his word is nev - er bro - ken. A - men.

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

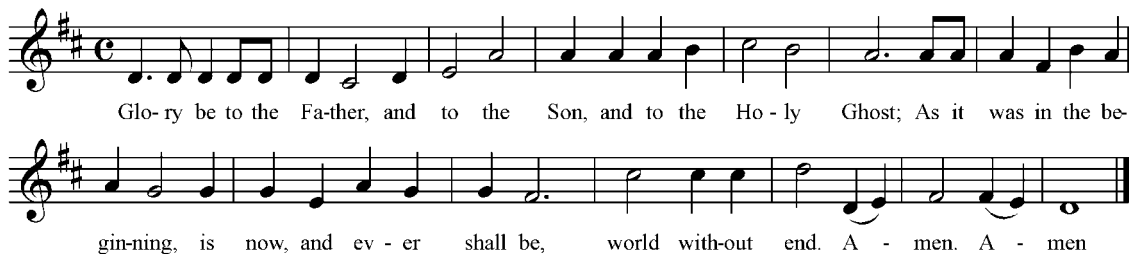
\*OPENING PRAYER

Mr. Gary M. Morello, Associate Minister

\*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.**

## \*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 SECOND CANDLE OF ADVENT – “PEACE”

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

#### DEACON INTRODUCTION

Marianne Lauer (8:30), Gary Holmes (10:00)

#### ADVENT PRAYER (RESPONSIVE)

Family Member: Advent celebrates the season of peace.

**Congregation: In the midst of all the struggles of our daily lives, God comes to us to provide tranquility and quietness.**

Family Member: But peace is not the absence of conflict in our lives.

**Congregation: Peace is the assurance that justice has been accomplished.**

Family Member: The scripture reminds us about the Prince of Peace who will come from God.

**Congregation: The Messiah, declared the granter of peace by the song of the angels, will come again to remind us to whom the reality of peace belongs.**

Family Member: And the lion and the sheep will lie down together in peace.

**Congregation: And there will be no difference between the people of all nations. Peace with justice will make us one with the Prince of Peace—the center of our hope, faith, and love.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE  
(10:00 only)

“PEACE”

Andrea Huntington

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Nina Miller

JOYS AND CONCERNS

## **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

ISAIAH 11:1-10

Marianne Lauer, Deacon (8:30)  
Gary Holmes, Deacon (10:00)

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

1 Let all mor-tal flesh keep si-lence, And with fear and trem-bling stand  
 2 King of kings, yet born of Mar-y, As of old on earth he stood,  
 3 Rank on rank the host of heav-en Spreads its van-guard on the way,  
 4 At his feet the six-winged ser-aph; Cher-u-bim, with sleep-less eye,

Pon-der noth-ing earth-ly-mind-ed, For with bless-ing in his hand,  
 Lord of lords, in hu-man ves-ture, In the bod-y and the blood,  
 As the Light of light de-scend-eth From the realms of end-less day,  
 Veil their fa-ces to the pres-ence, As with cease-less voice they cry,

Christ our God to earth de-scend-eth, Our full hom-age to de-mand.  
 He will give to all the faith-ful His own self for heav-enly food.  
 That the powers of hell may van-ish As the dark-ness clears a-way.  
 Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Lord Most High! A-men.

**EPISTLE LESSON**

MATTHEW 3:1-12

Rev. Rosenberger

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.” ’

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

‘I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

**SERMON**

“HELP IS COMING...BUT WILL WE HELP?”

Rev. Rosenberger

**OFFERTORY**

“EVERY VALLEY”

John Ness Beck

*(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*)

**What a joy it is to give, O God! What a delight to join our efforts to your purposes! You inspire us to oppose wickedness, to stand with the oppressed, to strive after harmony among all peoples. Lead us together to your holy mountain, where all are valued, where none is cast out. May our embrace—with yours—include all, O God.**

**CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**INVITATION**

**CALL TO PRAYER**

(Leader) The Lord be with you.

(Congregation) **And also with you.**

(Leader) Lift up your hearts.

(Congregation) **We lift them up to the Lord.**

(Leader) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

(Congregation) **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**\*SANCTUS**

**“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”**

*Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!  
My heart knows how to say to you: Holy are you, Lord!*

**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

(*unison*)

**Almighty God, we praise you, and extol you, for you have satisfied us with the food and drink of eternal life. Having been reclaimed in the sacrifice of your Son, we offer ourselves, our bodies and souls, as a holy and precious offering. May our lives be lived for the glory of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**\*HYMN**

**“COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS”**

(next page)

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Rosenberger

**POSTLUDE**

Mr. Pakhomov



## COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

"Psalmodia Sacra," Gotha, 171

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, Born to set thy peo - ple free;  
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth thou art;  
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child, and yet a king,  
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;

From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in thee.  
Dear de-sire of ev-ery na-tion, Joy of ev-ery long-ing heart.  
Born to reign in us for-ev-er, Now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.  
By thine all-suf-fi-cient mer-it Raise us to thy glo-riousthro-ne. A-men

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus". It features a treble and bass clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The score includes four lines of lyrics and two systems of musical notation. The first system contains the first four lines of lyrics, and the second system contains the final four lines. The music is written in a simple, homophonic style with block chords and single notes.

TODAY'S GREETERS are the Esmond Family: Robert, Audrey, Else (Confirmand) and Alec.

TODAY'S USHERS are Gary Holmes, Marianne Lauer (8:30), and Al Nickerson.



## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *HAVE YOU MADE YOUR PLEDGE FOR 2017??*



If every member makes a pledge to the 2017 budget, we will be able to continue to support the meaningful and expanding ministries of our church. A pledge from each of us is a commitment to each other, to our family of faith, and to the momentum that we have developed together over the past several years. Please support your church in a meaningful way, the amount of your pledge is secondary to your participation.

Every dollar is significant and gratefully received. Please look for the “pledge” noticeboard in Parish Hall, extra pledge cards are available if you need one, or if you prefer, email your pledge directly and confidentially to our treasurer, Karen Hansen at [khansen@ucc.org](mailto:khansen@ucc.org)

We know that you share our love of this church and all that means to us and to the larger community. **Thank you** for your consideration and generous response to this once a year financial request. We are praying for the full participation of our membership.

*Caroline Burke & Leila Wetmore (Pledge Co Chairs)*

### *COMPANION HYMNALS - DON'T MISS OUT!!!*



The new blue companion hymnals have arrived!! For \$25 each, why not have one or two in your favorite pew with your name or a loves ones name personalized inside?? These new hymnals will complement the Pilgrim Hymnals. Only a limited number are in stock, so do not delay! Stop by and take a look at our display table during coffee hour!!

Questions, please contact [kristindesautelle@gmail.com](mailto:kristindesautelle@gmail.com). Thank you!

### **NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS**



The First Congregational Church Nursery School is offering tours weekdays at 10:00am beginning November 28th for the school year 2017-2018. Please call 203 655-3150 to schedule a tour. There will also be an Open House on January 8th, 2:00 - 3:30. Church members receive priority placement.

# ***THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN HELPS! PLEASE JOIN US!***



## **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 **1-2 identical reusable bags** with food and love for Christmas Day! (**No boxes this year**) 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 **reusable grocery bags** to the Morehouse Room in Parish Hall by **Wednesday, December 14, 2016**. If you have any questions regarding the Person-to-Person Christmas Dove Program, please contact

**Annette Madden-Kline @ [a\\_madden\\_kline@hotmail.com](mailto:a_madden_kline@hotmail.com)**  
**or Gayle Appleby @ [gayleappleby@applebycapital.com](mailto:gayleappleby@applebycapital.com).**

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

*The First Congregational Church of Darien Board of Outreach*

Chair: Heather Raker, Vice Chair: Anna Denoyer, Members: Gayle Appleby, Lindsay Atha, Scott Barrett, Tracey Berry, Elmerina Brooks, Annette Madden-Kline, Bob McGee, Charlie Wetmore, Carol Wilson, Lauren Swenson



*(The Darien High School Tudor Singers)*

*Bring the spirit of Christmas into your heart at the annual  
Candlelight Concert at The First Congregational Church of  
Darien on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm.*



The evening will feature performances by **The Darien High School Tudor Singers** under the direction of Chris Andrade, **the church's Senior Choir soloists**, **world-class pianist Max Pakhomov** and a **carol sing-along** by the audience. Refreshments will follow the program.

There is no charge for the concert. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit the Shelter for the Homeless (Pacific House), which assures that some of the poorest and most vulnerable members of our community have respite from living on the streets, a hardship which is both dehumanizing and dangerous. Operating for 30 years, this is the only regional shelter in lower Fairfield County serving the four-town area of Stamford, Darien, Greenwich and New Canaan. The shelter typically houses 60 to 85 men, and up to 110 during extreme weather months. Its doors are open 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. The Shelter also provides client support services for both men and women through its drop-in Day Program. Please learn more at [www.shelterforhomeless.org](http://www.shelterforhomeless.org)



***All Are Invited!***  
***Advent Workshop and Family Dinner***  
**TODAY!! *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:***  
[\*andreaatkinson101@hotmail.com\*](mailto:andreaatkinson101@hotmail.com)



## *Join Us As We Celebrate Advent!*



### **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**

Children’s Service, 2:30 p.m.

Children’s Service, 4:00 p.m.

Family 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!!***



# *CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS and DEDICATIONS*



*We are in the season of giving thanks.*

*This is the time to recognize the special people and events that make you smile, warm your heart and make your days a pleasure.*

*Memorial poinsettias and evergreens always add a tender touch of grace and color to our holiday worship.*

*Then, when shared with church members who aren't able to join us for worship, they become an ongoing gift.*

***This year, the smaller space in our parish hall will limit the number of poinsettias we are able to use.***

***Excess funds will be used towards the purchase of "Dove Boxes" which will feed those in need.***

*You may fill out this form or sign up in the church office.*

*Include your check for \$25.00 to "The First Congregational Church of Darien, and note "Christmas Dedication" on the memo line.*

*(Due in the church office by **Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**).*

*A list of the dedications will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletins.*

-----  
I would like \_\_\_\_\_ dedication(s).

In Gratitude of/for \_\_\_\_\_

In Celebration of/for \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

***Graciously Donated by:*** \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$25.00 each)

**\*\* Please note:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **I will be taking my poinsettia.**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **I will not be taking my poinsettia,**  
**so please donate it in my/our name**

## **CHURCH CALENDAR**

### **TODAY**

Advent Workshop & Family Dinner, 4:00 p.m.

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 5**

Board of Christian Education, 7:30 p.m. in the Admin Wing Meeting Room

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6**

Board of Christian Outreach, 7:30 p.m. in the Morehouse Room

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7**

Night Owls, 6:30 p.m. in the Circle Room

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8**

Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. in the Morehouse Room  
Senior Choir, 8:00 p.m.

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11**

Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.  
Christmas Candlelight Concert, 7:00 p.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*

Find "First Congregational Church of Darien"  
on Facebook, Google+, Vimeo and "@UCCDarien" on Twitter.

