



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
www.uccdarien.org



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 17, 2017

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



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 17, 2017

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 #136**

“ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

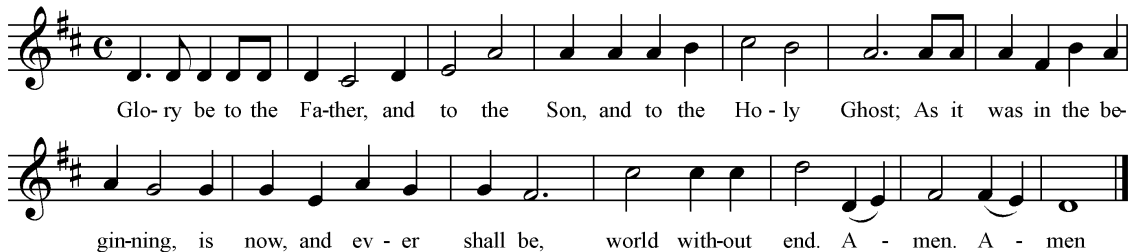
***OPENING PRAYER**

Rev. Gary 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 THIRD CANDLE OF ADVENT – “LOVE”

CANDLE LIGHTERS: Ernie and Anna Steiner (8:30 a.m.) and the Boulrier Family (10:00 a.m.)

DEACON INTRODUCTION

Phil Meyer (8:30), Kristin Desautelle (10:00)

ADVENT PRAYER (RESPONSIVE)

Family Member: God’s passionate love for all creation bursts into a sacred flame, producing a light for all to see. Now may our souls kindle like brushwood —with fire for the third candle of Advent.

Congregation: Something new is happening within us. We, who are waiting for the birth of the Christ, catch a glimpse of our reflection, expecting to notice a change. But we, and the holiday bustle of the season, look the same.

Family Member: For some, this season arrives with anxiety over changes we had not planned. Yet God works with us, helping to mold the clay of our lives.

Congregation: Like an expectant mother, we dream of God's work occurring just below the surface. We wait for the Messiah to meet us again, in fire, water, flesh, and blood.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE (10:00 only)

“LOVE”

Christine Geeding
Director of Christian Education

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OLD TESTAMENT READING

ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11

Phil Meyer, Deacon (8:30)
Kristin Desautelle, Deacon (10:00)

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes, (*continued*)

the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.
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.

***HYMN #124**

“ MY HEART SINGS OUT WITH JOYFUL PRAISE”

GOSPEL LESSON

LUKE 1:46-55

Rev. Rosenberger

And Mary said,
‘My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation. *(continued)*

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.’

SERMON

“ALWAYS WANTING MORE”

Rev. Rosenberger

OFFERTORY

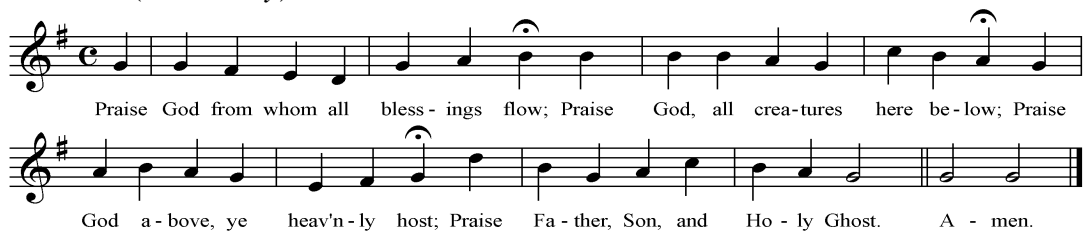
“CLIMB THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN” (ISAIAH 40)

Carolyn Jennings

(10:00 only)

Elizabeth Russo and 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)

Despite our unworthiness, O God, we bring worthy gifts to honor the newborn Messiah. May the brokenhearted be led to new celebrations of life. May the lowly among us come to know their true worth as your beloved children. We give ourselves as your servants, knowing that our commitment hallows our gifts. Amen.

*HYMN #153

“WHAT CHILD IS THIS, WHO, LAID TO REST”

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Rosenberger

POSTLUDE

* * *

TODAY'S GREETERS: The Lyons Family (Alexis, Confirmand)

TODAY'S USHERS are Kristin Desautelle, Mary Ann Freeman, Anne MacInnes and Phil Meyer (8:30 a.m.)



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH SCHOOL



Pageant and Pennies!

Our Christmas Pageant is taking place, this morning, at 11:00AM in Parish Hall! We will "pass the hat" for a free-will loose change offering. This will go to a local charity to be chosen by the youth of FCC. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Youth Band

The new FCC Youth Band looks forward to sharing their music with everyone. Would you like to join? Our next rehearsal is Sunday, December 17th at 3:00PM in the room next to Gary's office. Email cgeeding@uccdarien.org or gmorello@uccdarien.org for more information.

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!

BELL CHOIR



The Bell choir would welcome anyone who would like to learn to play a beautiful set of bells. We practice on Monday afternoons, 4:30-5:30 in the Morehouse room. If you are interested, please call Theo Osgood: 203-655-2538.

MUSIC AT FIRST NEWS



Christmas Eve Services: Sunday, Dec 24

Family Services: 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm

Service of Lessons and Carols: 10:00 pm, with a Prelude Concert starting at 9:30 pm. If you would like to sing with the choir at this service, please contact Dan Hague (danth Hague@aol.com) and come to a couple of rehearsals on Thursday nights at 8 pm before the service.

For more information on the music program, contact Mariann Bigelow (bigelow3@optonline.net or John Stuart (johnstuartmktg@optonline.net)

BIBLE STUDY / THE GENESIS STORIES



Please join us for a 10-week examination of some of the best-known stories from the book of Genesis and a discussion about what they tell us about our lives today, including how we deal with disobedience to God, jealousy, sibling rivalry, faith and treachery.

Each one-hour meeting will include a review of the story, a short video presentation from a Bill Moyers special, and group discussion about the story's meaning as facilitated by our pastors.

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, finishing on January 3, 2018. There is no Bible Study on December 20 or 27.

Starting on January 10, we will begin a new semester on The Book of Acts.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH



The First Congregational Church HELPS!

The Board of Outreach is pleased to announce that during 2017, The First Congregational Church will donate approximately \$120,000 to nonprofit organizations which serve the disadvantaged, our youth and elderly.

Outreach funds include 10% of pledged contributions to the church, 4% of the mission endowment and proceeds from The Darien House Tour: Homes with Heart, plus collections at Easter, Christmas and more.

Outreach beneficiaries include the following:

ABC House . At Home in Darien . Building One Community . Carver Foundation of Norwalk . Child Guidance Center of Southern Connecticut . Crossing Thresholds . Domestic Violence Crisis Center . Elderhouse . Feed My Starving Children . Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County . Icon . INSPIRICA . Liberation Programs . New Covenant House . Open Door Shelter . Pacific House . Person-to-Person . STAR and The Center for Sexual Assault Crisis and Education.

First Congregational Church also helped with hands-on projects including:

- Food First
- Cooking/Serving for the Open Door Shelter
- Building One Community Family Night
- Person-to-Person Postal Drive
- Feed My Starving Children
- Christmas Dove Boxes
- Habitat for Humanity Build
- Distributing hams and turkeys at the Open Door Shelter at Easter and Christmas
- Red Cross Blood Drive
-

Thank you for your help for those in need!

The First Congregational Church of Darien Board of Outreach

Chair: Lauren Swenson, Members: Gayle Appleby, Lindsay Atha, Scott Barrett, Elmerina Brooks, Gary Holmes, Bob McGee, Doug McPheters, Heather Raker, Charlie Wetmore, Carol Wilson



Join Us As We Continue To Celebrate Advent!



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle – “LOVE”

Christmas Pageant, 11:00 a.m.

“Come As You Are” worship service, 4:30 p.m.

SUNDAY(morning), DECEMBER 24 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Worship Service of Prayers, Poems and Carols at 10:00 a.m.

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle – “JOY”

SUNDAY(evening), DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

Family Service, 3:00 p.m.

Family Service, 5:00 p.m.

Service of Lessons and Carols, 10:00 p.m.

Bring a Friend!

All are welcome!

THE FCC CHURCH SCHOOL PRESENTS

P A G E A N T

2017



DECEMBER 17, 2017

11:15AM IN PARISH HALL

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF DARIEN

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.

WELCOME TO THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

***“Where God’s lavish love embraces us,
Christ’s bold truth transforms us,
the Spirit’s healing power sends us.”***

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Christmas Pageant, 11:00 a.m. in Parish Hall

“Come As You Are” worship, 4:30 p.m. in Parish Hall

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

Church Council, 8:00 p.m. in the Circle Room

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

3:00 p.m. Family Service

5:00 p.m. Family Service

10:00 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols

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*