

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

DEEP RIVER, CONNECTICUT

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22, 2024

8:30 a.m.

CAROL SING (8:20)

Susan Miron, Pianist

BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS AND OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Caronna

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING CEREMONY – *Candle of Love*

Art Christianson & the Brenneman Family

All: *Lord Jesus, son of Joseph and Son of God, light the candle of love in us. Help us to build a world of kindness and respect, one that is a fitting home for all your people. Remind us that even rough hands and simple hearts can be the instruments you use to bless the world. Fill us with your love in this season and always. Amen.*

*HYMN #230 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

PRAYERS OF JOY, PRAYERS OF NEED

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD *Luke 1:39-55*

SERMON *My Spirit Rejoices"*

Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Caronna

PRAYER

*HYMN #200 *Tell Out, My Soul*

Thank you for coming this morning as this Advent season prepares our hearts Christ's coming! We invite you to gather early each week to sing Christmas carols before worship begins!

You are invited to place your weekly offerings in the plate as you exit the church. Please join us for coffee and conversation in Fellowship Hall following the service.

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS:

AND AGAIN I SAY,

Rejoice.

PHILIPPIANS 4:4

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
DEEP RIVER, CONNECTICUT
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 22, 2024
10:00 a.m.

CAROL SING (9:45)
BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Susan Higgins, Organist

GATHERING WORDS AND OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Caronna

INTROIT "Come Worship the Christ Child" *Chancel Handbell Choir*

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING CEREMONY - *Candle of Love*
Joyce & Sarah Bugbee

All: Lord Jesus, son of Joseph and Son of God, light the candle of love in us. Help us to build a world of kindness and respect, one that is a fitting home for all your people. Remind us that even rough hands and simple hearts can be the instruments you use to bless the world. Fill us with your love in this season and always. Amen.

*HYMN #230 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (with Bell Choir)

RESPONSIVE READING *Canticle of Mary* (#199, Red Hymnal)

*RESPONSE *Gloria Patri*

*Glory Be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.*

THE JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (trespasses)

*RESPONSE *In the Bleak Midwinter* (#221, v. 4)

What can I give Him

Poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb

If I were a wise man, I would do my part

Yet what I can, I give Him

Give my heart.

*(Congregation, please stand if you are able)

ANTHEM "O Shepherds, Aren't You Happy?" *Hal Hopson*
Senior Choir

"A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS"

LESSON 1 *Isaiah 9:2,6,7*
#245 *The First Noel*

LESSON 2 *Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9*
#216 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" (v. 1 & 2) *All*

LESSON 3 *Luke 1:26-35, 38*
Mary, Did You Know? *Soloist Ron Toth*

LESSON 4 *Matthew 1:18-23*
#224 "Good Christian Friends Rejoice" (v. 1 & 2) *All*

LESSON 5 *Luke 2:8-16*
"A Child Born of Mary" *Chancel Handbell Choir*

LESSON 6 *Matthew 2:1-11*
#238 "Angels We Have Heard on High" (v. 1 & 4) *All*

LESSON 7 *John 1:1-14*

*CLOSING HYMN #246 "Joy to the World"

BENEDICTION

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Thank you to our Senior Choir and Bell Choir. Special thanks to Susan Higgins who is filling in for Annetta this morning.

Thank you for coming this Advent morning as we prepare our hearts for Christ's coming! You are invited to place your weekly offerings in the plate as you exit the church.

Please join us for coffee and conversation in Fellowship Hall following the service, which is hosted by our Board of Deacons.