## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH DEEP RIVER, CONNECTICUT THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 22, 2024

8:30 a.m.

Susan Miron, Pianist

CAROL SING (8:20) 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"

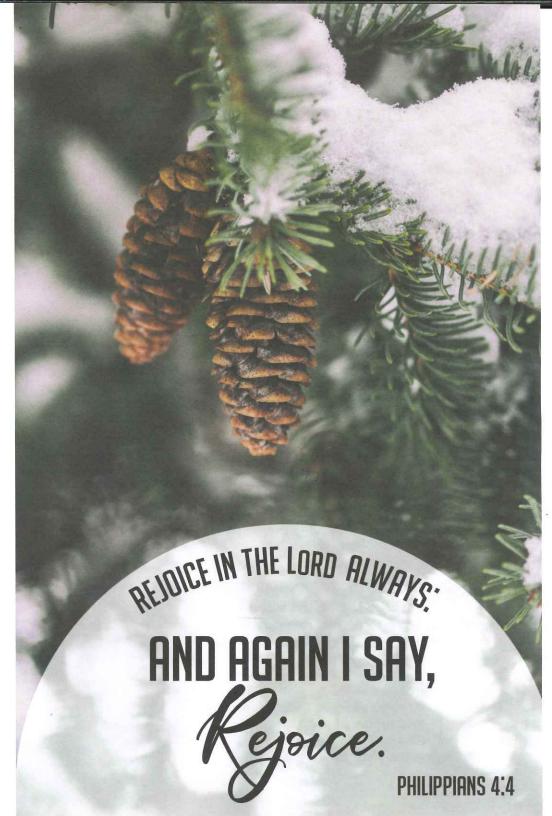
Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Caronna

**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.



## 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. Cherul 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 The First Noel #245

LESSON 2 Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" #216

(v. 1 & 2) All

LESSON 3 Luke 1:26-35, 38

Mary, Did You Know?

Soloist Ron Toth

All

All

LESSON 4 Matthew 1:18-23

"Good Christian Friends Rejoice" (v. 1 & 2)

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)

LESSON 7 John 1:1-14

\*CLOSING HYMN #246 "Joy to the World"

BENEDICTION

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.