

**The First Congregational Church**  
January 15, 2023

**Kent, Connecticut**  
10:00 AM

*A Community of Faith, Service and Love*  
*Second Sunday after Epiphany*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O come, let us worship the Lord, and consider the wondrous things God has done!

**People: The Magi who studied the heavens followed a guiding star.**

Leader: O Come, let us worship the Lord, and consider the wondrous things God has done!

**People: The People who walked in darkness have seen a great light!**

Leader: O Come, let us worship the Lord, and consider the wondrous things God has done!

**People: Christ, the Word made Flesh, makes us heirs of the promises of salvation.**

HYMN # 598

*Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God;  
He whose Word cannot be broken formed you for his own abode.  
On the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake your sure repose?  
With salvation's walls surrounded, you may smile at all your foes.

See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,  
Well supply your sons and daughters and all fear of want remove.  
Who can faint while such a river ever will their thirst assuage?  
Grace, which like the Lord, the giver, never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear,  
For a glory and a covering, showing that the Lord is near!  
Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,

Safe they feed upon the manna which God gives them on their way.

Savior, since of Zion's city I through grace a member am,  
Let the world deride or pity, I will glory in your name.  
Fading are the world's best pleasures, all its bloated pomp and show;  
Solid joys and lasting treasures none but Zion's children know.

\*OPENING PRAYER

**Lord, you showed your glory and led many to faith through the works of your Son, Jesus Christ. As he brought gladness and healing to many, grant us these same gifts and lead us to perfect faith in you, for in his name we pray. Amen.**

\*GLORIA PATRI (#734)

*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.*

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 40:1-11

To the leader. Of David. A Psalm.  
I waited patiently for the Lord;  
he inclined to me and heard my cry.  
He drew me up from the desolate pit,  
out of the miry bog,  
and set my feet upon a rock,  
making my steps secure.  
He put a new song in my mouth,  
a song of praise to our God.  
Many will see and fear,  
and put their trust in the Lord.

Happy are those who make  
the Lord their trust,  
who do not turn to the proud,  
to those who go astray after false gods.  
You have multiplied, O Lord my God,

your wondrous deeds and your thoughts towards us;  
none can compare with you.  
Were I to proclaim and tell of them,  
they would be more than can be counted.

Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,  
but you have given me an open ear.  
Burnt-offering and sin-offering  
you have not required.  
Then I said, 'Here I am;  
in the scroll of the book it is written of me.  
I delight to do your will, O my God;  
your law is within my heart.'

I have told the glad news of deliverance  
in the great congregation;  
see, I have not restrained my lips,  
as you know, O Lord.

I have not hidden your saving help within my heart,  
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;  
I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness  
from the great congregation.

Do not, O Lord, withhold  
your mercy from me;  
let your steadfast love and your faithfulness  
keep me safe for ever.

SERMON

HYMN #93 *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*  
Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light.  
Praise the One who frees the prisoners, turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing every dread disease,  
Calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.

Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word.  
Praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing two-edged  
word.

Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand.  
From this well comes living water quenching thirst in every land.

Praise the one true love incarnate; Christ, who suffered in our place.  
Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done.  
Praise the one redeeming glory; praise the One who makes us one.

PRAYER CONCERNS, PASTORAL PRAYER, 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 trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom  
and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

HYMN#748

*Lord Dismiss Us With Your Blessing*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

---

Ministers: Community of Faith  
Pastor: The Rev. John David Heeckt  
Organist: Bob Keck  
Deacon of the Month: Jody Lampe  
Video Team: Bethany Keck

---

**WE WELCOME ALL** who are worshipping with us in person and  
via the internet.

**Prayer List:** Peggy, Scott, Barbie, Liz, Lewis, Our Community,  
Ukraine, Our world leaders.

Please mail your offering in weekly/monthly  
First Congregational Church  
PO Box 306  
Kent, CT 06757

Phone: 860-927-3335  
Website: [fccofkentct.org](http://fccofkentct.org)  
Minister: [fcckentminister@gmail.com](mailto:fcckentminister@gmail.com)  
Office: [fcckentoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fcckentoffice@gmail.com)

AA meets every Monday and Friday in the Parish house at 8pm.

Next week's offering will be going to Disaster Relief for Outreach. This fund taken on the third Sunday of the month will be used for the local community that may need help after a disaster. Any questions can be emailed to Jon Stroble.

## **TO ALL MEMBERS IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD AND FAMILY**

THE ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING OF  
THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF  
KENT, CONNECTICUT (UNITED CHURCH OF  
CHRIST)

WILL BE HELD ON

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023**

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP

BUSINESS TO BE CONDUCTED:

Vote on 2023 Budgets for

## Quality Thrift Shop Outreach Operating

- Vote on withdrawing up to \$12,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund for the stripping and repainting of the Thrift Shop exterior and the power washing, staining and painting of ramps/railing/posts at the rear of the Church and Thrift Shop

The informational meeting will be held in person on 1/22 after Church in the Sanctuary.