

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
CANTON CENTER, CT**



**January 28, 2018 - 10:00 a.m.
The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**



184 Cherry Brook Road, PO Box 133, Canton Center, CT 06020-0133

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www.cantoncenterchurch.org

~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

CHIMES

Karen Needham

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brief announcements from the congregation are welcome. Those wishing to make Announcements are asked to be in the front pews at the start of the announcements period.

There will be opportunity to share prayer requests at the time of the Prayers of the Church. If you wish to offer a prayer request in written form, please fill out one of the yellow prayer request cards found in the pews and place it in the offering plate at the time of the offering.

Large print editions of the bulletin and Chalice Hymnal are available at the back of the sanctuary.

Nursery Room is available in the lower level of the Parish House. Children ages Birth-3 years may visit the Nursery with a parent at any time.

**All who are able, please stand. Bold denotes unison voice.*

PRELUDE

"Tender Lord, Precious Lord"

Douglas Wagner

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the cold of winter,
the warmth of God.

In nature's beauty,
the wonder of God.

In the dark of night,
the light of God.

In each day's living,
the call of God.

In everything everywhere,
the love of God.

Friends, let us be at worship,
for God is in the midst of us,
and we are in the midst of God.

*HYMN 62 Chalice (blue) *"Creator God, Creating Still"*

*GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

O God whose heart is love,
stir in us today that we might be newly alive,
for faith and hope and love.

Help us be awake to the word you will speak through us,
to the spirit you will stir in us,
to the gifts you will give us to us,
that we might be brave and generous
in living as your people in this world.
We pray in the name and spirit of Jesus the Christ,
as we also say together:

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.

***SUNG RESPONSE**

Bless God, O my soul! All with - in me bless God's name!
Bless God, who was, and is, and shall ev - er be the same!

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Ashley Washburn

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Sarah Pradhan

Following this, children may go to church school.

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE: Matthew 25:14-30

SERMON "Knit into the Kingdom"

***HYMN 381, Chalice (blue)** "Take My Gifts"

OFFERING OF GIFTS

Invitation

Offertory "Lift Every Voice and Sing"
Senior Choir

Allen Pote

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

God of every grace,
we thank you for all the good gifts you give us
for ministries of justice, compassion and care.
We ask your blessing upon these that we offer now,
that they might bear witness to your love,
among us and beyond us.
In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

***HYMN 445, Chalice (blue)** *"Go in Peace"*

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *"We Give Thee But Thine Own"*
Senior Choir

***POSTLUDE** *"O' Sing the Glories of Our Lord"* David Harris

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka	Ministers: Every Member
Director of Music: Mary Lou Keefe	Sexton: Walt LeGeyt
Director of Faith Formation: Sarah Pradhan	Secretary: Kristen DiMattia
Duty Deacons: Kathy Byko & Dan LeGeyt	Duty Trustee: Jeff Goodwin
Greeters: Hagedoms & girls	Coffee Hour Host: Carol Heyer

The First Congregational Church, Canton Center
January 28, 2018

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The flowers this morning are given by Bill & Polly Rice,
in loving memory of Bill's parents, Bill & Rose Rice,
and Polly's dad, Ernest Gardow.*

WELCOME

We're glad you've joined us for worship today. Please know that whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! If you are visiting today, please help us get to know you better by filling out one of the visitor cards in the pews and placing it in the offering plate. Questions? Please feel free to ask the pastor, or call the church office during the week.

SUPERBOWL GRINDER SALE - ENDS TODAY

*This is the last week to order your Superbowl Grinder during coffee hour!
Your choice of turkey, ham or Italian with lots of fixings.
Cost is \$6.50 per grinder and proceeds benefit our church school mission, Asante Sana for Education.
Assembled by our JYF Class and ready for pick up on 2/4.*

PRIME TIMERS

*The Out to Lunch Group will meet at Amici's in Avon at 12:00 On Wednesday, January 31, 2018.
If schools are closed we will not meet.
Please call Harriet Vose -860-693-2333 if you have to cancel or have questions.*

CANTATA REHEARSALS TO BEGIN

Next week, February 5th the Senior Choir rehearsals will start at 6:45 for members and guests to begin working on the Palm Sunday Cantata on March 25th.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We gather as a welcoming community in worship, learning, service and fellowship, to embody Christ's message of love, compassion and justice. Joining faith with action, both within and beyond our church, we strive to build a community that serves all.

MISSION OPPORTUNITY FOR 7TH – 12TH GRADE

Sunday, February 18th, we'll be participating in our first GIV2 event.

We'll be joining with other youth from area churches to serve a meal at the Open Door in Winsted.

We'll leave from church by noon and finish roughly around 3:30.

Transportation to/from church will be provided. We need a headcount by 2/4.

See Sarah Pradhan, Bob Oswald or Casey Levine for more info and to RSVP.

ANNUAL MEETING & REPORTS

The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, February 25, 2018

If you are a committee chair and need to submit a report -

please email your reports as they were due to the church office last Friday

so they may be included and distributed for review a few weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.

STOP BY THE SCRIP TABLE TODAY!

Love is in the air! If you shop at websites like 1-800-Flowers or Harry & David for Valentine's Day, why not purchase a scrip card to do your shopping with? This week these websites and their affiliates are offering a 17% rebate back to the church on the face value of the gift card.

Shop for your sweetie and do something sweet for the church at the same time!

Stop by the scrip table in the parish hall for more details.

PRAYER CONCERNS NOW POSTED ON BULLETIN BOARDS

You may now find posted each week on our bulletin boards the prayer requests that were publicly shared in worship on the prior two Sundays, and any others that have arisen that are public.

The postings are on both the main church bulletin board (in the vestibule outside the kitchen) and on the bulletin board right outside the church office.

Sunday 28	Monday 29	Tuesday 30	Wednesday 31	Thursday 1	Friday 2	Saturday 3
Worship 10 am Confirmation Class 11:30 am	Choir 7 pm ACA 7 pm	AA 7 pm	Prime Timers 12 pm Search Cmt. 7 pm	Cub Scouts 6:30 pm Handbell Choir 7 pm		AA 11 pm