

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



**March 18, 2018 - 10:00 a.m.
Fifth Sunday in Lent**



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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- Childcare is provided for ages 3 and under, in the lower level of the Parish House.

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

PRELUDE *"Comfort Ye" (Messiah)* George Handel arr. Lawrence Grant

CALL TO WORSHIP

May the grace and peace of God be with us today,
 renewing us in all our need.
May we be touched by the mysteries of love and hope,
 as we keep our eyes on Jesus.
May we remember today that whoever we are,
whatever our journey,
 God's truth in us will not be silenced.
Friends, let us be in the spirit of worship,
for God is in the midst of us,
 and we are in the midst of God.

*HYMN 253 Chalice (blue) *"Spirit, Come, Dispel Our Sadness"*

*GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Loving God, as we move closer to Holy Week,
watching the path of Jesus,
may we learn from his strength, his courage, his love.

May we ourselves be open today
to the promptings of your Spirit,
so that in all we face,
in all we are called to do and to be,
we might be people of strength, courage and love.
In his name and spirit we pray, 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 the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Sarah Pradhan

Following this, children may go to church school classes.

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE: Luke 19:28-40

SERMON "Irrepressible"

OFFERING OF GIFTS

Invitation

Offertory "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"
Senior Choir

Gilbert Martin

***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**

O God who is generous with the whole creation,
may we be generous in your name,
using all you have given us to love and to serve,
to bless and to heal,
so that we might help the world know
your love for all. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

*HYMN 632, Chalice (blue) *"Lead On, O King Eternal"*

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *"A Blessing"*
Senior Choir

* POSTLUDE *"Look Now, Your King is Coming"* Deborah Govenor

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: Bev Sealand & Dave Heyer	Duty Trustee: Jeff Goodwin
Coffee Hour Hosts: Charlie & Donna Hammond	Greeters: Bev & Evelyn Sealand

The First Congregational Church, Canton Center
March 18, 2018

*The flowers this morning are given by The Potter Family
in memory of their parents and grandparents.*

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.

EASTER FLOWER SALE - *Easter Lilies and Tulips will be on sale this morning and next Sunday. Lilies will be \$18 per plant and Tulips will be \$10. per plant. Please see Polly Rice or Kristin Oswald.*

BAKE SALE - *JYF Bake Sale this morning will benefit Asante Sana for Education.*

ORDER YOUR SCRIP TODAY! - *Hitting the road for April vacation? Don't forget to take scrip along! We have gift cards for all sorts of gas stations, restaurants, hotels and car rental companies. Make sure you plan ahead for Easter too. Get your scrip cards to use for extra grocery shopping, a special outfit or a little gift. Order your cards today for pickup next week. See Casey and Karen at the scrip table during coffee hour.*

PALM SUNDAY POTLUCK - *A wonderful tradition of our church is to share a potluck meal, Easter dinner style, after our Palm Sunday service next Sunday. Please see the sign-up sheet if you would like to provide a ham, side dish, or dessert. This would be a great day on which to invite a friend to join you at church: special music during worship and special fellowship following it!*

SECOND HOUR TODAY, 11:30 a.m.

Our main topic will be: "From a Line to a Circle"

A presentation from Church Council on a re-imagined organizational structure for our church (committees, leaders, staff, congregation) and a plan to try out this spring.

We may also hear a brief update from the Open and Affirming (ONA) Committee.

CONVERSATIONS FOR LENT

"PRAY THE WAY YOU THINK GOD LISTENS:" THE LANGUAGE OF PRAYER

This Thursday, March 22, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

(please note - NOT 7 p.m. as listed in the Churchmouse calendar)

OR

Tuesday, April 17, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

(re-scheduled from March 7)

Facilitated by Hollace Bristol and Rev. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

How do we shape the language of prayer, whether that language is spoken aloud or silently? Why do we form prayer in one way rather than in another way? What do we understand to be happening when we pray? As we think about the meaning(s) of prayer, we'll consider how our basic understanding of God determines how we pray, and what we think is happening when we do.

(Please use sign-up sheets on the church bulletin boards or contact the church office.)

Holy Week Schedule

- March 25** **Palm Sunday**, Beginning of Holy Week
10:00 a.m. Special cantata presented by the Senior Choir
- March 29** **Maundy Thursday**
7:30 p.m. Traditional service of Tenebrae commemorating the Last Supper & Communion
- March 30** **Good Friday**
12 - 3 pm Sanctuary open for meditation; Prepared readings will be available.
- April 1** **Easter Day**
10:00 a.m. Festival worship for Easter, with special music and communion.

Sunday 18	Monday 19	Tuesday 20	Wednesday 21	Thursday 22	Friday 23	Saturday 24
Worship 10 am SECOND HOUR Bake Sale Lily Sale Cherub Choir 11:15 am	Special Cantata Choir 6:45 ACA 7 pm Sr. Choir	AA 7 pm	Search Committee 7 pm	LANGUAGE OF PRAYER 10-11:30 am Handbell Choir 7 pm		AA 11 pm