

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



**April 15, 2018 - 10:00 a.m.
Third Sunday of Easter**



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

Office 860-693-4581

E-mail: office@cantoncenterchurch.org

www.cantoncenterchurch.org

~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

CHIMES

Bob Oswald

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 *"Song of Remembrance"*

Gilbert Martin

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather as friends in Christ, for we are joined together because of our friendship with him.

His unending care for us inspires us to love one another.

Because it is difficult at times for us to admit our need for others, we wish to learn how to better receive and nurture friendships.

**As we feel the fabric of loving community around us,
may we commit ourselves to exhibiting the love of Christ in
all that we think and say and do.**

***HYMN 335 Pilgrim (red)** *"What A Friend We Have In Jesus"*

***GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Gracious God, we give thanks for your ceaseless and eternal love, which gives birth to all healthy human friendships. We are grateful for those with whom we can openly share our joys and sorrows and who desire the best for us. We thank you for the example of Jesus, who cared for everyone he encountered, but who taught us about deep and abiding friendships through the relationships he had with his closest companions.

We ask that you would form in us a greater capacity to care for those most dear to us, while at the same time ask that you would open us to the joys and surprises of new friendships. In Jesus' 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 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!

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Sarah Pradhan

Following this, children may go to church school classes.

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE: Ruth 1:1-22 John 15:12-17

SERMON "Soul Friends"

HYMN 239, Pilgrim (red) "Come Down, O Love Divine"

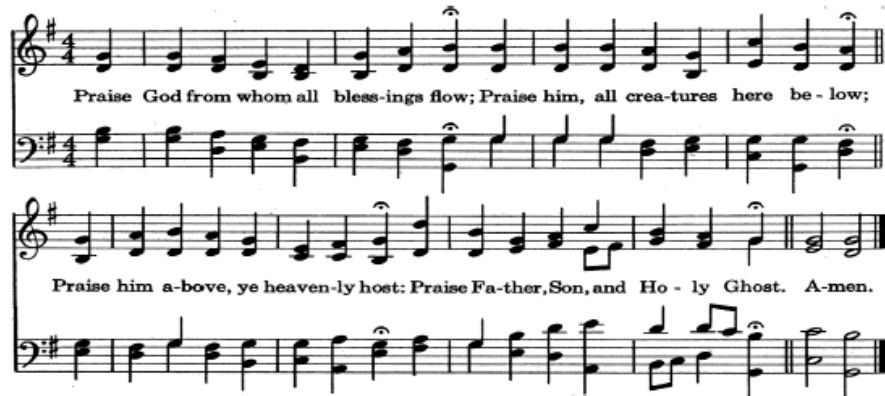
OFFERING OF GIFTS

Invitation

Offertory "Bring to the Lord a Song"
Senior Choir

Eugene Butler

*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 526, Chalice (blue) *"The Gift of Love"*

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *"Jesus, with Thy Church Abide"*

Senior Choir

* POSTLUDE *"Fantasia in C"* Georg Handel

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: Andy Kerr & Kim Treadwell	
Greeters: David, Debbie, Julia, Anna & Nathan	Ushers: Poleyestewa Family

The First Congregational Church, Canton Center

April 15, 2018

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.

This morning we welcome to the pulpit The Rev. Marcia Lynn Cox.

A native New Yorker, she has lived in Avon for 32 years.

After careers as a theatre instructor and costume and toy designer, she entered Yale Divinity School in 1990. Following graduation in 1993 she served as a chaplaincy resident in three Manhattan hospitals, and as an interim pastor in eight churches in Connecticut and one in Vermont.

The flowers are given by the Minichiello-Hooker family in loving memory of our departed family members: Melissa, Bissie, Margot and Polly.

HOLY JOE'S COLLECTION

Missions & Outreach is collecting loose change for Holy Joe's Café for April. Holy Joe's provides good coffee and spiritual respite to service men/women serving our country.

HANDS OF GRACE COLLECTION

We are also collecting small (hotel size) bottles of personal care items (shampoo, lotion, etc.) These items will be packaged and delivered to soup kitchens and put in the emergency food boxes at Hands of Grace in New Hartford by Linda McAllister.

NEW MEMBER EXPLORATORY SESSION: SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 11:30 A.M.

Interested in joining our church this spring, or exploring membership without obligation? We invite you to an exploratory session with the pastor and members of the Diaconate. Child care will be provided. Please let us know of your plans to attend by contacting the church office (860-693-4581) or pastor (pastor@cantoncenterchurch.org). We'd welcome your participation!

PRIME TIMERS

On April 11 at noon, the Prime Timers will meet in the Parish Hall to hear Stephen Busemeyer from the Hartford Courant editorial page. Bring your lunch, dessert and beverages will be available.

THINK SCRIP FOR YOUR SPRING CLEANING AND BEAUTIFYING!

Spring is on its way - really! Plan now for your indoor organizing and outdoor landscaping. We have gift cards available from over 700 retailers, including helpful places like Ace Hardware, Home Depot and Lowes. Place an order at the scrip table today for pickup next Sunday. Thanks for your support!

SUMMER YOUTH MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Anyone in grades 10-college looking to be involved in a **Silver Lake mission opportunity?**
See Sarah Pradhan or Casey Levine to learn more about the mission trip A Hammer & a Nail in Orland Maine.

Spend a week "helping to build homes, do farm work, and cook in a soup kitchen as we experience what it means to love our neighbors."

Stay tuned for information about registration for **Heads Up! Hartford**, a local mission opportunity in the greater Hartford area. A week long session starting in the end of June, youth in grades 9-12 work together to improve our communities.

THE LANGUAGE OF PRAYER

"PRAY THE WAY YOU THINK GOD LISTENS:"

Tuesday, April 17, 7- 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.)

A workshop on: PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN WORSHIP MUSIC

Sat., April 28, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. First Congregational Church, Meriden with Rev. Bryan Sirchio, UCC minister, singer/songwriter and author

For all those interested in how musical arts can strengthen our spiritual experience in the 21st century mainline church. \$25 per person, includes lunch. www.singanewsong.info

Sunday 15	Monday 16	Tuesday 17	Wednesday 18	Thursday 19	Friday 20	Saturday 21
Worship 10 am	Choir 7 pm ACA 7 pm	LANGAUGE OF PRAYER 7 PM AA 7 pm	Search Committee 7 pm	Handbell Choir 7 pm		AA 11 pm