

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



**April 22, 2018 - 10:00 a.m.
Fourth Sunday of Easter ~ Earth Day**



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

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 *"Creation Will Be At Peace"*

Anna Laure Page

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, friends, let us give praise to the God whose world this is!

Let us give praise for God's works of art!

Light and dark, sun and stars,

water and land, trees and grasses,

fish and animals and birds, and all our human brothers and sisters --

let all things praise their Maker!

Come friends, let us learn again to see God in everything,

and to live in harmony with all of creation.

*HYMN 64 Chalice (blue) *"We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God"*

*GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Creator God, Maker of all --- artist, planter, weaver, sower,
all creation is your handiwork!

All life in its seasons, all creatures great and small,
the whole family of things bears your love.

Mindful of how all things connect,
may we grow faithful in our care and deep in our reverence,

repentant in our neglect and committed in our hope
for all you have made.

May it be that the peace and safety you intend for all things
will speak to us today and inspire us anew.

This we ask in Jesus' name and spirit, as we also pray 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

*For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

"The universe is a communion of subjects, not a collection of objects." Thomas Berry

Job 12:7-10

*"Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength
that will endure as long as life lasts."*

Rachael Carson

Psalms 8: 1-8

RESPONSIVE READING *"Caring for the Earth"* Chalice Hymnal (blue), #694

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES Sarah Pradhan & Rev. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

*HYMN 61, Chalice (blue) *"All Things Bright and Beautiful"*

OFFERING OF GIFTS

Invitation

Offertory *"Let the Praise Go Round"* William Boyce arr. Hal Hopson
Senior Choir

***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**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

***HYMN 696, Chalice (blue)** *“For Beauty of Meadows”*

***BENEDICTION** *adapted from a Gaelic Prayer*

As the hand is made for holding and the eye for seeing,
so has God fashioned us for joy.

Let us go with eyes and hearts awake, that we might find joy everywhere:

in the beauty of the violet, in the melody of the lark,
in the face of a steadfast person, in the smile of a child,
in the purity of Christ.

Friends, let us go in peace, to love and to serve.

Thanks be to God.

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *“All Creatures of Our God and King”*

Senior Choir

***POSTLUDE** *“All Good Gifts”*

(from Godspell) Stephen Schwartz

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

Director of Music: Mary Lou Keefe

Director of Faith Formation: Sarah Pradhan

Duty Deacons: Andy Kerr & Kim Treadwell

Coffee Hour Host: Buckley Family

Ministers: Every Member

Sexton: Walt LeGeyt

Secretary: Kristen DiMattia

Greeters: Buckley Family

The First Congregational Church, Canton Center
April 22, 2018

*The flowers this morning are given by Susan Lampros Merriam
in memory of Carolyn Merriam, Bryant Merriam and Mickey Halczyn.*

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.

PRIME TIMERS

The Out to Lunch Group will meet on April 25 at 11:40 am at the commuter parking lot on the north-west corner of Routes 44 & 179. We will carpool to The Log House on Route 44 in Barkhamsted.

THINK SCRIP FOR MOTHER'S DAY!

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 13th. If you are at a loss for what to get your mom or wife, why not purchase a gift card to their favorite clothing store or restaurant – or spa? With over 700 retailers to choose from, the Scrip table is the perfect place to shop! Visit us during coffee hour to see the list of gift cards available to order.

HOLY JOE'S COLLECTION

Missions & Outreach is collecting loose change for Holy Joe's Café for April. Holy Joe's provides coffee and spiritual respite to service men and 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.*

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.

FAITH & FAMILY DAY ~ YARD GOATS BASEBALL GAME

Wider Church will be selling Yard Goat Baseball Game Tickets for the Faith & Family Night on May 5. Please see Kristin Oswald during coffee hour if you would like to purchase tickets for this fun event.

Tickets are \$ 11.00

SUMMER YOUTH MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

SILVER LAKE

Anyone in grades 10th - 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."

HEADS UP! HARTFORD

Stay tuned for information about registration for Heads Up! Hartford, a local mission opportunity in the greater Hartford area.

A week session starting in the end of June, youth in grades 9-12 work together to improve our communities.

Sunday 22	Monday 23	Tuesday 24	Wednesday 25	Thursday 26	Friday 27	Saturday 28
Worship 10 am Canton HS Class review 6 pm	Choir 7 pm ACA 7 pm	AA 7 pm	Prime Timers Out to Lunch Search Committee 7 pm	Handbell Choir 7 pm	Confirmation Class to Synagogue, Simsbury	AA 11 pm