

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

October 3, 2021 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

World Communion Sunday



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

Office 860-693-4581 E-mail: office@cantoncenterchurch.org www.cantoncenterchurch.org *Please stand, if you are able. **Bold** denotes unison response.

CHIMES Karen Needham

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brief announcements from the congregation are welcome. Those wishing to make an announcement are asked to be in the front pews at the start of the announcement period. Prayer request cards may be found on the tables at the back of the church.

Offerings may be placed in the marked boxes on the tables at the back of the church.

PRELUDE

Gift of Finest Wheat

Westendorf/Kreutz arr. John Ferguson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome to this place,

where we bring our hungers and find food, our brokenness and find healing, ourselves and find acceptance.

Welcome to this place,

where we remember that "God's beloved" means us, but not only us--God's beloved is all of creation.

Welcome to this place,

for here we join with each other, with hearts of welcome for all others, invited together to the table of God.

*HYMN In Christ There Is No East or West Chalice (blue), 687

- 1. In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north, but one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.
- 2. In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find; his service is the golden cord close-binding humankind.
- 3. Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be; all children of the living God are surely kin to me.
- 4. In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north; all loving hearts are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.

*GATHERING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

God of all the world and of infinite worlds, we give thanks on this day for the goodness of all that you create, even as we remember our failure to love all that you love. Because we divide what is whole and betray what is one, because we do violence to your world, we need your spirit of peace. God of our one world, whose mercy is greater than our failings, heal our spirits and make us one. This we ask in the name and spirit of Jesus the Christ, 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.

ANTHEM Let Us Break Break Together African-American Spiritual Senior Choir

The congregation is invited to sing: Pilgrim Hymnal, #288

READING FROM SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 11:17-26

SERMON "One Line"

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

*COMMUNION HYMN "I Come with Joy" Chalice (blue), 420 Vss. 1, 2 & 3

- 1. I come with joy. a child of God, forgiven, loved and free, the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
- 2. I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed, the new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.
- 3. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends. The love that made us, makes us one and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

During this pandemic, we continue to modify our Communion practices and use pre-packaged crackers & bottles of water as our elements, which we invite you to pick up at the back of the church before the service starts. All are welcome to participate.

Invitation

On this day, we come to Christ's table with our brothers and sisters the world over, to remember the love that makes us one –

whoever we are, wherever we live, whatever our story.

We are gathered in the spirit of the risen Christ,

who sees not our differences but our oneness.

Singing the song of the sacred in every language, speaking the name of the sacred in every tongue, in conflict and in communion, in discord and desire, we come to the table of God.

Prayer of Preparation

Words of Institution, Partaking of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*HYMN They'll Know We are Christians Chalice (blue), 494 Vss. 1-3

1. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, and we pray that all unity will one day be restored.

Refrain: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, and they'll know we are Christians by our love.

2. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

Refrain

3. We will work with each other, we will work side by side, we will work with each other, we will work side by side, and we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.

Refrain

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE (sung by all)

Reprise: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, and they'll know we are Christians by our love.