



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

September 26, 2021 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

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

And Can It Be

Dan Forest

CALL TO WORSHIP

The sinners, the saints, the broken, the whole:

all come together in this sacred place.

The doubters, the devout, the wonderers, the wanderers:

all are gathered in by the same Spirit.

The eager the fearful, the hesitant, the heroic:

all are invited to the circle of belonging.

Come, people of God, let us center again in the great Love,

that calls us together and makes us one.

*HYMN

O God of Vision
Verses 1-4

Chalice (blue), 288

*O God of vision far greater than all human scheming,
Gather us now in your presence, refreshing, redeeming.
Show us anew life in your breathtaking view,
Lovely beyond all our dreaming.*

*Pour out your Spirit on all now assembled before you.
May our diversity here be a means to adore you.
Women and men, young, old and youthful-again,
Make us as one, we implore you.*

*Grant to us insight, O God, for this time of decision.
May we dream challenging dreams of both depth and precision.
Speak through the dark, dispel by lightning's bright spark
Whatever clouds dim our vision.*

*Break the sun's rays into color, a rainbow around us.
Storm clouds, though real and near, are not enough to confound us.
Arched in the sky, beauty and promise are high,
Giving us hope to astound us.*

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

O God whose heart is love, whose love is everywhere,
may we come with attentive spirits today
to remember that you call us together
into this community,
a circle of care and faith, of learning and belonging.
As we gather in this place,
whoever we are and whatever our story,
may we experience again the love that welcomes
and the peace that centers,
the faith that renews and the grace that heals.
In Christ's 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** *Alleluia*

1. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

ANTHEM *The Gift of Love*
Senior Choir

Hal Hopson

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Karen Needham

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE Philippians 2:1-13

SERMON *Making the Circle*

MUSICAL INTERLUDE *Jesus the Very Thought of Thee* arr. Paul Halley

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

***HYMN** *For Each Day of Life We Thank You* Chalice (blue), 605

*For each day of life, we thank you, God, the giver of all days;
and with hearts filled with thanksgiving, we would serve you now, always.*

*As in days of youthful vigor, may we in all later years
Know the joys of useful purpose. Free us from our anxious fears.*

*Give us dreams and inner vision of a new world to be gained,
Where all people live together, by each other's love sustained.*

*May the insights gained from living be a light upon the way,
Guiding us, and those to follow, to a brighter, better day.*

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE (sung by all)** Tune: Dove of Peace

*Together met, together bound by all that God has done,
We'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one,
The love that makes us one.*

***POSTLUDE** *Praeludium* Felix Mendelssohn

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

Director of Music: Mary Lou Keefe

Office Manager: Kristen DiMattia

Ministers: Every Member

Sexton: Walt LeGeyt

Duty Deacons: Tim LeGeyt & Vicki Rees

Duty Trustees: Dina Raimo-Pelham & Scott Munson

Camera: Steve Byko