

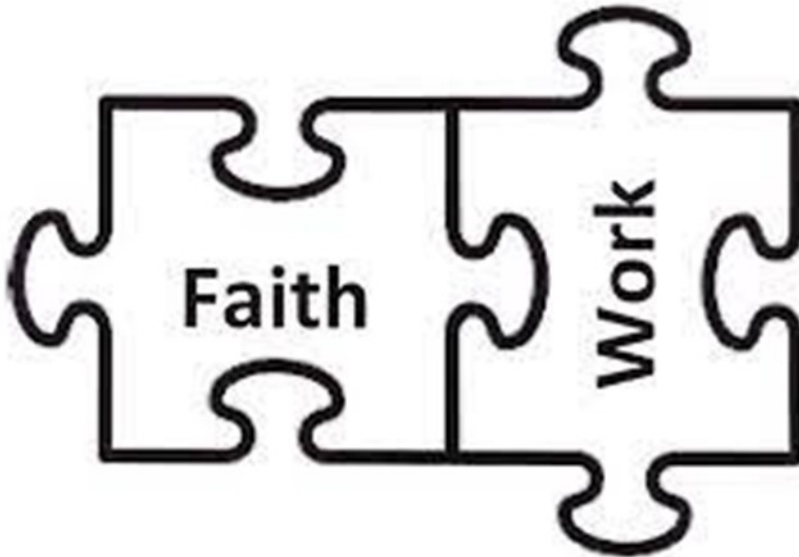


THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

September 5, 2021

~ Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost ~

10:00 a.m.



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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

Please stand, if you are able. **Bold denotes unison response.*

CHIMES

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 *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

Tom Colvin

CALL TO WORSHIP

Called together in spirit and in truth,
 today we bring ourselves and our stories.
Called together in faith and in hope,
 today we bring our openness to grace.
Called together from our different lives,
 today we remember our common life.
Friends, let our time of worship renew us,
 and awaken us for the work of love.

***HYMN** *Morning Has Broken*

Pilgrim (red), 38

- 1. Morning has broken, like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!*
- 2. Sweet is the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dew-fall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass.*
- 3. Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's re-creation of the new day!*

*GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Power of Love in everything everywhere,
may we know today the strong and certain touch of your Spirit,
reminding us that we are not alone but together,
not separate but connected.

May be awakened to the bonds of our common life,
and in our struggles to live undivided --
faithfully and courageously whole --
may we remember the depth of your grace
that makes all things new,
even us, even here, even now.

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 *Bless God, O My Soul*



The image shows two staves of musical notation for a sung response. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/2 time signature. The melody is written on a single line, and the lyrics are placed below it. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The lyrics are: "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!"

READING FROM SCRIPTURE Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23; James 1:22-27, 2:14-18

SERMON *Inside and Out*

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

MUSICAL INTERLUDE *One Bread One Body*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Until we are able to return to our usual practice of passing the Communion elements, we invite you to pick up the elements at the back of the church before the service starts and take them to your pew.

Invitation

Whenever we share in the Sacrament of Communion, we remember that this is an open table –

Christ's table, not our own, and that all are welcome to participate.

We remember that we are gathered in the spirit of the Risen Christ,

who sees us as beloveds and invites us all to the table of grace,

who calls us to share in an abundant life, with each other and with all others.

One bread, one body, one Lord of all.

Prayer of Preparation

Words of Institution

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**We give thanks to you, Eternal One, for the gifts of your table,
reminders of our place in the beloved Body of Christ.**

**Now send us out to live and serve in your world
as good stewards of creation, courageous disciples of Jesus,
and loving people of God. Amen.**

***HYMN** *Christian, Rise and Act Thy Creed* **Pilgrim (red), 416**

- 1. Christian, rise and act your creed; let your prayer be in your deed;
Seek the right, perform the true raise your work and life anew.*
- 2. Hearts around you sink with care, you can help their load to bear;
You can bring inspiring light, arm their falterings wills to fight.*
- 3. Let your alms be hope and joy, and your worship God's employ;
Give God thanks in humble zeal, learning all God's will to feel.*
- 4. Come then, law divine and reign, freest faith assailed in vain,
Perfect love bereft of fear, born in heaven and radiant here.*

*BENEDICTION

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Amen*

***POSTLUDE** *Your Love, O God*

Frosterson/Copes