



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

November 21, 2021 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Thanksgiving Sunday



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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 *We Give Thanks*

David Lantz

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the midst of difficulty, the Lord sets a table of rejoicing for us.

Though the world seems focused on turmoil, yet will we praise God!

Our lives should be witnesses to God's goodness and power.

Our hearts should encompass compassion and service to God's people.

Help us to be your workers and witnesses in today's world, O Lord.

Enable us to be faithful and to be strong.

***HYMN** *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* Pilgrim (red), 462

*Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;
All is safely gathered in 'ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.*

*All the blessings of the field, all the stores the gardens yield,
All the fruits in full supply, ripened 'neath the summer sky,
All that spring with bounteous hand scatters 'er the smiling land,
All that liberal autumn pours from her rich o'er-flowing stores.*

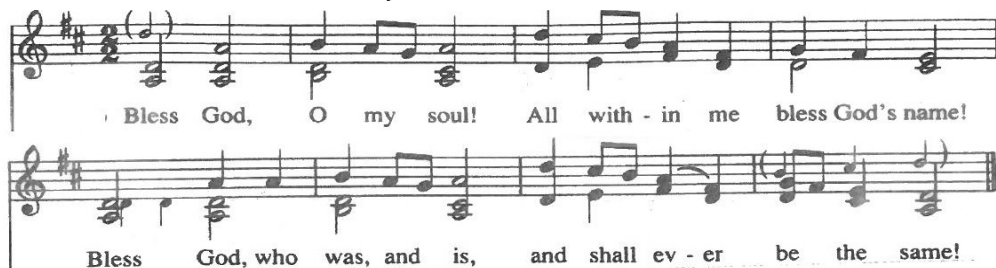
*These, to thee, our God, we owe, Source whence all our blessings flow;
And for these our souls shall raise grateful vows and solemn praise.
Come, then, thankful people come, raise the song of harvest home;
Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.*

*GATHERING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Bounteous God, you have lavished your finest gifts on each of us.
We thank you for the many ways in which you have touched our lives--
with love, hope, friends, our church community,
and so many other things that we cherish.
Help us be a blessing for others,
that they may come to experience your love.
Give us hearts of courage and confidence
to step out into the world in service,
bringing hope where there is doubt, peace where there is strife,
love where there is discord.
These things we pray in Jesus' name, 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 is in G major (one sharp) and 2/2 time. The melody is written on a treble clef staff, and the accompaniment is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "Bless God, O my soul! All with - in me bless God's name!". The second staff continues the melody and accompaniment with the lyrics: "Bless God, who was, and is, and shall ev - er be the same!".

ANTHEM *The Tallis Canon*
Senior Choir

Thomas Tallis arr. Douglas Wagner

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Karen Needham

Following this, children may go out.

READING FROM SCRIPTURE Matthew 6:24-34

SERMON "*Seriously?.....Are You Kidding?!*"

The Rev. Dr. Robert LaRochelle

ANTHEM *Rejoice in the Lord Always*
Senior Choir

Henry Purcell

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

***HYMN** *Now Thank We All Our God* Chalice (blue), 715

*Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom the world rejoices,
Who, from our parents' arms, has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

*O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us full of grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.*

*All praise and thanks to God, our Father and our Mother,
To Christ and to the One who binds us to each other,
The one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore,
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.*

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Sevenfold Amen*
Senior Choir

***POSTLUDE** *Your Praises Bring*

Lani Smith

We welcome our guest pastor this morning, the Rev. Dr. Robert LaRochelle. He is an ordained UCC pastor, residing in Broad Brook, who has served both UCC and ELCA (Lutheran) churches, most recently Grace Lutheran Church in Plainville. He also worked for many years in education, including from 2000-2019 as a Counselor in the South Windsor Public Schools. Rev. LaRochelle is the author of several published books and articles on church & ministry topics and is working on a new book for release in 2022.