



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

November 7, 2021 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost



"It's the heart that gives; the fingers just let go."

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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www.cantoncenterchurch.org

An Open and Affirming Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP

All who are able, please stand. **Bold denotes unison voice.*

CHIMES

Karen Needham

WELCOME AND 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 *Thanks Be to Thee*

George F. Handel

CALL TO WORSHIP

“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go into the house of the Lord,’”
where the smallest word can be the Word of God,
where the briefest touch can be the touch of grace,
where the smallest gift, wholeheartedly given,
is building the Realm of God.
Friends, let us rejoice in the gift of this new day,
for God is in the midst of us and we are in the midst of God.

*HYMN *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* Chalice (blue), 2

*Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive our fear and doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.*

*All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav’n reflect thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.*

*Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.*

*Mortals, join the happy chorus; stars of morning, take your part;
Love divine is reigning o'er us, binding those of tender heart;
Ever singing, move we onward, victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.*

***GATHERING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Giver of life, as we gather once more,
we watch for your presence,
we listen for your wisdom,
we remember our place in your creation
and our call to serve it in love.

We are people of many blessings,
yet can be those of squandered gifts.

We are made with hearts for giving,
yet can be those who withhold our best.

Generous God, when we are small of heart, heal us
so that we will be generous too.

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** *Bless God, O My Soul*

The image shows a musical score for a sung response. It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 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! Bless God, who was, and is, and shall ev - er be the same!"

ANTHEM *A Canon of Praise*
Senior Choir

Natalie Sleeth

READING FROM SCRIPTURE Mark 12:38-44

SERMON *Offerings*

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

This morning, we return to the use of bread and grape juice for Communion. You are invited to come forward to receive them. Gluten-free bread will be offered. Grape juice will be in individual cups. Please consume each of the elements as you take them, removing your mask briefly to do so. There will be a place to leave the empty cup. If you wish to be served in the pew, please raise your hand so that a Deacon may bring the elements to you.

Invitation

Prayer of Preparation

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, Eternal One,
for the gifts of your table,
reminders of all the goodness of your creation.
Now send us out to live and serve in your world,
as good stewards of creation,
courageous disciples of Christ,
and loving people of God. Amen.

***HYMN** *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* Chalice (blue), 606

*God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store;
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door;
Gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.*

*Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your son;
All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one;
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone;
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne*

*Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain thru power your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word;
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.*

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

***POSTLUDE** *Praise the Lord with Music*

Jay Althouse

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!

Questions? Please feel free to ask the pastor, or call the church office during the week.

*The flowers this morning are given by Ed & Chris Welcome
in loving memory of their fathers, Russell Johnson, Sr. and Edward Welcome, Sr.*

COME HIKE WITH US THIS MORNING! - We invite you on a family hike on the Mary Conklin trail up on Indian Hill, just a few minutes from the church. The trail does not have a lot of elevation and we will walk about two miles, noticing the beauty of the woods this time of year. Wear sturdy shoes, dress in layers and bring a hat and water. We will meet after church and carpool to the parking area off Indian Hill Road. Depending on the participation we may make hiking a regular church activity. Rain date: Sunday, November 14th.

SHOP SCRIP TODAY! - The Scrip table will once again be set up in the parish hall beginning today. Stop by after the service for all your gift card needs! We are actively collecting gift cards for the missions committee for their various outreach activities happening this month. And not to shock you, but there are only 7 shopping Sundays left until Christmas! Karen Needham will be staffing the table today, so be on the lookout for her. Thanks for your support.

**NOTICE OF A SPECIAL MEETING of the First Congregational Church,
Canton Center, Connecticut, on Sunday, Nov. 14, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.
OR on subsequent Sundays at 11:00 a.m. until a quorum is obtained.**

AGENDA:

1. Call to order and opening prayer.
2. Reading of the call to the meeting.
3. Presentation of the proposed changes to the Church's by-laws included in Amendment 14
4. Any other business proper to come before the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Bev Sealand, Clerk

MISSIONS COLLECTIONS

Non-perishable food items will be collected by the Missions and Outreach Committee and the CE Committee for the **Canton Food Bank**. **Brown bags and a list of food suggestions will be handed out this morning.** Food items may be returned to the area under the stairs by the church office anytime **before or on Sunday, 11/21**. Please check the expiration dates. Thank you for taking the time to share with others who are not as fortunate.

Grocery store gift cards to Stop & Shop, Shop Rite or Aldi are requested in order to purchase the necessary items for boxes that The **Canton Social Services Department** is putting for some Canton families, similar to what they did last year. **If you wish to purchase gift cards through our Scrip program please contact Casey Levine** at 860-371-1016 or c.levine@comcast.net. Aldi is not available through Scrip. Please indicate that the gift card/s are for the Thanksgiving boxes and have them in to the church office **by Thursday, November 11th**.

Donations are also being accepted in support of recently arrived refugees from Afghanistan. They are being brought to the New Haven and Hartford areas by **IRIS (Integrated Refugee and Immigration Services)** and placed in apartments in the area to start a new life here. To see a complete list of needs please go to irisct.org. To arrange for a furniture pick up of dressers, dining tables and chairs, side tables, small sofas and carpets please send photos to mariesmovers@yahoo.com or contact Gina Magennis at g.magennis76@gmail.com to arrange next group pickup in our area.

Gift cards for Wellmore will be collected from November thru Sunday, December 5, 2021. **Wellmore** is requesting cards for Target, Walmart, and Dunkin Donuts. The Dunkin cards as you might guess are for Wellmore's teenage population. You can also help our church by using the Scrip program and ordering the cards from Casey Levine. Please let Casey know the cards are for Wellmore and she will get them to the Mission Committee or to Geri Bunnell. Thank you so much for your continued support!

Sunday 7	Monday 8	Tuesday 9	Wednesday 10	Thursday 11	Friday 12	Saturday 13
Worship & Communion 10 am <i>Hike - Indian Hill</i>	Trustees 7 pm Music 4:30 pm Sr. Choir 5 pm ACA 7 pm	Council 7 pm AA 7:00 pm		Choir 7 pm		AA 11:00 pm

