



**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
CANTON CENTER, CT**

January 9, 2022 ~ 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday after Epiphany



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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

CHIMES

Karen Needham

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry*

Charles Coffin

CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise the God of new beginnings, in whose hand the year unfolds.

**Praise the God who calls us beloved,
who blesses us with the waters of love and grace.**

Standing at the beginning of a day or a year or a lifetime,

we trust the faithfulness of God,

whose goodness washes over us in all seasons.

Friends, let us be at worship with ready hearts and minds.

HYMN *All Beautiful the March of Days* Pilgrim (red) , 456

*All beautiful the march of days, as seasons come and go;
The hand that shaped the rose hath wrought the crystal of the snow,
Hath sent the hoary frost of heaven, the flowing waters sealed,
And laid a silent loveliness on hill and wood and field.*

*O'er white expanses sparkling pure the radiant morns unfold;
The solemn splendors of the night burn brighter through the cold.
Life mounts in every throbbing vein, love deepens round the hearth,
And clearer sounds the angel hymn "Good will to [all] on earth."*

*O thou from whose unfathomed law the year in beauty flows,
Thyself the vision passing by in crystal and in rose,
Day unto day doth utter speech, and night to night proclaim,
In ever-changing words of light the wonder of thy name.*

GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Loving God, whose spirit comes with blessing upon us
in all the days of this new year,
we remember now that you dwell everywhere in this world,
that you dwell always in us.

As we move forward in Epiphany season,
we remember that we are your own beloved,
made in your image and called by your grace.
May we be renewed today as a community of faith,
as those who receive your gifts and tell your story,
as those who are called to reflect your light,
in faith, hope and love.
We pray in Christ's name and spirit, 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 contains the lyrics: "Bless God, O my soul! All with - in me bless God's name!". The second staff contains the lyrics: "Bless God, who was, and is, and shall ev - er be the same!". The music is written in a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/2 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics placed below the notes.

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 43:1-7; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

SERMON *Remember: Beloved*

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

God of every goodness, may your spirit bless all the offerings we make,
that they might become love, compassion and justice in our world. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

ANTHEM *Let Us Break Bread Together*
Members of the Senior Choir

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

You are invited to participate in the sacrament using whatever you have at home for elements.

Invitation and Prayer of Preparation

Recalling the Story: The Words of Institution

Partaking of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

To you, O God, who gives us life and new life,
we give thanks,
and to you we turn our hearts and our minds,
our being and our doing,
that all might flow from love.
Send us now to be bread for each other
and light for the world,
following the Way of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

HYMN

I Come with Joy
Verses 1,3,5

Chalice (blue), 420

*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.*

*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.*

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

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Lord, Grant Us Thy Peace
Members of the Senior Choir

POSTLUDE *Let the River Run*

Carly Simon arr. Craig Jonson