

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

February 20, 2022 ~ 10:00 a.m. Seventh Sunday after Epiphany



DO EVERYTHING WITH A GOOD HEART AND EXPECT NOTHING IN RETURN.

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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

*Please stand, if able.

Bold denotes unison response.

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 His Eye Is on the Sparrow
Judy Robinson

Charles Gabriel Arr. Mark Hayes

CALL TO WORSHIP

As we have at every sunrise, we awakened this day to welcome the new morning.

And in response God's grace and love, we have chosen to honor the Sabbath here in this place.

We come joyfully to greet long-time friends, acquaintances, and travelers on life's journey we have yet to come to know.

In this community we support and inspire one another as it becomes second nature to us to do everything with good hearts.

We acknowledge, too, the opportunity to reflect and meditate on the wisdom and guidance of scripture.

As we gather together, we are pleased to lift our voices in praise and in song

*HYMN Awake, Awake to Love and Work Pilgrim (red), 34

Awake, awake to love and work! The lark is in the sky; The fields are wet with diamond dew; the worlds awake to cry their blessings on the Lord of life, as he goes meekly by.

Come, let thy voice be one with theirs, shout with their shout of praise; See how the giant sun soars up, great lord of years and days! So let the love of Jesus come and set thy soul ablaze. To give and give, and give again, what God hath given thee; to spend thyself nor count the cost; to serve right gloriously the God who gave all worlds that are, and all that are to be.

*GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Loving God, we give thanks for this church, which offers a place of sanctuary, of learning, of fellowship, and spiritual nurture.

Becoming more and more aware of God's call on our lives, we seek to continually be reminded of, and to affirm, what it means to do to others what we would have them do to us, as Jesus taught us, and in whose name we pray:

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



ANTHEM

O Jesus, I Have Promised Senior Choir

John Bode and Arthur Mann

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Luke 6:27-38

SERMON

The Good Heart

The Rev. Marcia Lynn Cox

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Out of the goodness of our hearts, we entrust to you, O God, a portion of our material possessions, along with the time and energy we offer to love and to serve. We ask that you would bless and receive them, as they continue to support this church and all of its good works in this community and the world. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH Joys & Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

*HYMN Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant Chalice (blue), 490

Sister, let me be your servant, brother, let me walk with you; pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travelers on the road. We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony, born of all we've known together of great love and agony.

Brother, let me be your servant, sister, let me walk with you; pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE Sevenfold Amen Senior Choir

*POSTLUDE Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace a prayer of Francis of Assisi arr. Howard Helvey

This morning we welcome as our guest pastor the Rev. Marcia Lynn Cox. She is a 1993 graduate of Yale Divinity School and has served nine churches as an Interim Pastor. Born in Kew Gardens, New York, she has been a resident of Avon for 36 years.