



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

**March 20, 2022 ~ Third Sunday in Lent
10:00 a.m. In Person & Live Streamed**



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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

**Please stand if 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 *Lord Jesus, Think on Me*

John Stainer

CALL TO WORSHIP

The sinners, the saints, the broken, the whole,
all are gathered as the people of God.

The doubters, the devout, the wonderers, the wanderers,
all are held in the grace of God.

Whoever we are, whatever our path,
whatever we are trying to find or leave behind,

God is the grace that will find us and call us,
God is the love that will welcome us home.

***HYMN** *Gather Us In* Chalice (blue), 284

*Here in this place, the new light is streaming, shadows of doubt are vanished away.
See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, our spirits inflame.
Call to us now, and we will awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.*

*We are the young, our lives are a mystery; we are the old, who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in – the rich and the haughty; gather us in – the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.*

*Here we receive new life in the waters, here we receive the bread of new birth;
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us a new to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you;
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.*

*Not just in buildings small and confining, not in some heaven light-years away,
Here in this place the new light is shining; now is God present and now is the day!
Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

*GATHERING PRAYER

God of extravagant love,
within the gift of this day we wait
for a new hearing of your word, a fresh seeing of your grace.
We know the times we wander away,
the unloving things we do and the loving things we leave undone
that rupture precious bonds.
Where we feel far from the center,
we pray for guidance that will lead us home.
In our private hearts and in our common heart,
may we trust in your love to restore us.
In Jesus' 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 the Lord, My Soul

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system covers the lyrics: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name." The second system covers the lyrics: "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." The score includes a treble clef, a bass clef, and a common time signature (C). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked with a quarter note equal to 10 (♩ = 10). The dynamics are marked with a piano (p) dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as chords, stems, beams, and slurs. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

Dm G Dm Bb C Dm

ANTHEM *My Jesus I Love Thee*
Senior Choir

arr. Dan Forrest

Following this, children may go out to church school.

READING FROM SCRIPTURE Luke 15:1-3,11-32

SERMON *Welcome Home*

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

**O God who is loving and generous with all of creation,
may we be loving and generous in your name,
using all you give us for the blessing of life.**

**Take our minds and think through them, our hands and serve through them;
take our voices and speak through them, our hearts and love through them,
for the sake of the gospel and for the sake of the world. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

***HYMN** *Amazing Grace* Chalice (blue), 546

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.*

*Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.*

***BENEDICTION**

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

***POSTLUDE** *The Ukrainian National Anthem*