

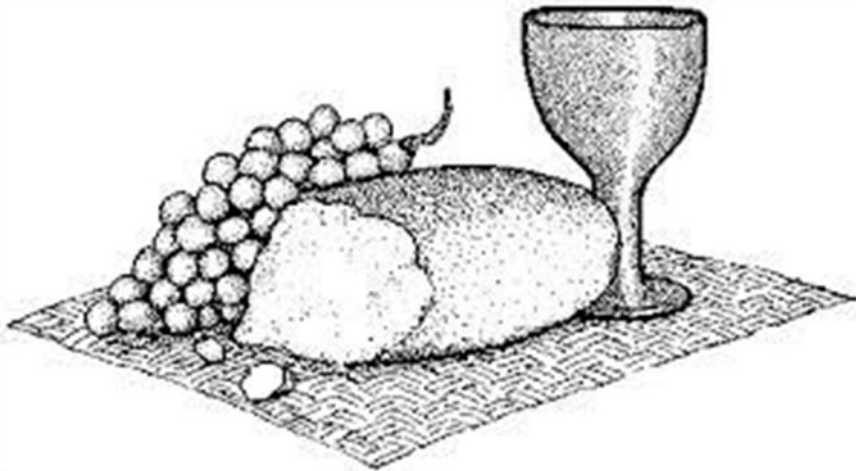


# THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

May 1, 2022

Third Sunday of Easter

10:00 a.m. In Person & Live Streamed



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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

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*\*Please stand if able. **Bold** denotes unison response.*

**CHIMES**

**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**      *Wherever You Walk*

George F. Handel

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Whether we are up or down, soaring or sinking,  
**our God is holding us... how can we keep from trusting?**  
Whether we are faith-filled or doubt-filled,  
**our God goes with us... how can we keep from hoping?**  
Whether we have faith or are trying to have faith,  
**our God lives with us.... how can we keep from trying?**  
On this and every day, in this and every place,  
**God brings us to life and life brings us to God –**  
**how can we keep from singing?**

**\*HYMN 619, Chalice (blue)**      *My Life Flows On*

1. *My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.  
I hear the clear, though far-off, hymn that hails a new creation.*

*Refrain: No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

2. *Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?*

*(Refrain)*

3. *What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior liveth.  
What though the darkness gather 'round? Songs in the night he giveth.*

*(Refrain)*

4. *The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his – how can I keep from singing?*

*(Refrain)*

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

This is a new day, O God; help us to receive it.

This is a new chance; help us to live it.

We can be new people; help us to trust that.

Held by your love and fed by your grace,

we can begin again; help us to know that.

For you, the Living One, are making all things new –  
even us, even here, even now.

In Christ's 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 God, O My Soul*

The image shows two staves of musical notation for a sung response. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single line, and the lyrics are placed below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. 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!"

*Following this, children may go to church school.*

## READING FROM SCRIPTURE Revelation 21:1-5a

## SERMON *Always Beginning*

## DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

**Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer**

## HYMN (seated) *I Come with Joy*, verses 1 & 3 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.*

## THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Communion will be served in the pews. As the elements are passed, please wait until all have been served and all will partake together. Gluten-free bread is in the center of each bread plate. The juice trays hold non-alcoholic grape juice, with a few cups of water available on each.*

### Invitation

Friends in Christ, we come to this table of grace,  
**each of us individually and all of us together.**

We come to this table of blessing,  
**to meet the Risen One who calls us --**  
we who have much faith and we who struggle with faith,  
**we who have been here often and we who have not.**

Each of us and all of us participate in this one table,  
**because Christ invites us and God welcomes us,**  
**because the Spirit makes us one body.**

### Prayer of Preparation

**Recalling the Story: The Words of Institution**

**Sharing the Bread and the Cup**

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

Loving God, giver of life and new life,  
we thank you for the gifts of your table  
and for all the graces they represent.  
Now fed by your love, we go out into your world.  
What we have been is past,  
what we shall be, in Christ, still awaits.  
Lead us on, make us ready, guide our way. Amen.

**\*HYMN 228, Pilgrim (red)** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* Verses 1 & 4

*Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n to earth come down.  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown;  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.*

*Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;  
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Amen*

**\*POSTLUDE** *The Holy City*

F.E. Weatherly/Stephen Adams