



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

May 29, 2022

Third Sunday of Easter

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

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Harry Shelley

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in the gift of a new day,

open to the presence of God's Spirit.

We gather in the gift of memory,

grateful for what has been, and for those before us.

We gather in the gift of hope,

eager for what is yet to be, for the world that is on its way.

We gather as the people of God,

trusting in the power of faith, hope and love.

***HYMN**

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Chalice (blue), 67

*O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.*

*Under the shadow of thy throne still may we dwell secure;
Sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.*

*Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,
From everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.*

*A thousand ages, in thy sight, are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.*

*Time, like an ever-rolling stream, soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.*

*Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guide will life shall last, and our eternal home.*

*GATHERING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Eternal One, bound by neither time nor space,
whose forms are many, whose truth is one,
in this place today we seek you,
even as we remember that you are everywhere.
For the blessing of all faithful ones before us,
for honor and sacrifice, for courage and love,
we give thanks.

God of all, help us to stand with the faithful of every time
and to be faithful in our own time,
witnesses to your love, your care and your presence with us.
We ask in Christ's 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 two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 2/2 time. The first staff contains the melody and accompaniment for the first line of the response: "Bless God, O my soul! All with - in me bless God's name!". The second staff contains the melody and accompaniment for the second line: "Bless God, who was, and is, and shall ev - er be the same!". The lyrics are printed below the notes.

ANTHEM Musical tribute to the Armed Forces, with organ and Karen Needham on chimes

Army: *The Caissons Go Rolling Along*

Navy: *Anchors Away*

Marines: *The Marine's Hymn*

Coast Guard: *Semper Paratus*

Air Force: *Off We Go into the Wild Blue Yonder*

READING FROM SCRIPTURE Ecclesiasticus 44:1-15

To follow along, see Pilgrim Hymnal, #124, p. 544

SERMON *The Congregation Proclaims Their Praise*

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Gracious One, who calls us to be the beloved community
and whose light wants to shine through us,
we thank you for every good gift you give us.
We seek your blessing upon all our offerings
and upon the intentions of our hearts within them,
that through them and through us,
your love might be evident in this world. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

*HYMN *Forward Through the Ages* Pilgrim (red), 383

*Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.
Gifts in differing measure, hearts of one accord,
Manifold the service, one the sure reward;
Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.*

*Wider grows the kingdom, reign of love and light;
For it we must labor, till our faith is sight.
Prophets have proclaimed it, martyrs testified,
Poets sung its glory, heroes for it died.
Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.*

*Not alone we conquer, not alone we fall;
In each loss or triumph lose or triumph all.
Bound by God's far purpose in one living whole,
Move we on together to the shining goal!
Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.*

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Amen*

*POSTLUDE *St. Anne*

J. S. Bach