



# THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

May 8, 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**

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 Holy Wings*

Sweedish Folk Tune arr. Cathy Moglebust

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Friends, we gather today in the presence of God,

**even as we remember that we are always in the presence of God.**

We gather today in gratitude for families,

**and with prayers for the family of earth.**

May the peace of God fill us, may the love of God unite us,

**may the spirit of God empower us for lives of love and care.**

Let our worship today awaken our thanks and praise

**for the beauty of God's creation.**

**\*HYMN**

*For the Beauty of the Earth* Chalice (blue), 56

*1. For the beauty of the earth, or the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*2. For the beauty of each hour, of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,  
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*4. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

5. *For thy church that evermore lifteth holy hands above,  
Offering up on every shore one pure sacrifice of love,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

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

Creator God, Maker of all – artist, planter, weaver, sower,  
all creation is your handiwork!

All life in its seasons, all creatures great and small,  
the whole kin-dom of earth praises you!

Mindful of the connection of all things,  
may we grow faithful in our care for all you have made,  
and deep in our reverence, repentant in our neglect.  
committed in our hope,

May the love we know within our own families  
deepen in us a love for the whole family of earth,  
and guide us to the peace and safety you intend for all.

This 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**

*Refrain from "All Things Bright and Beautiful"*

All things bright and beau-ti - ful, All crea-tures great and small,  
All things wise and won - der - ful, The Lord God made them all.

## DISTRIBUTION OF PANSY PLANTS

*Again this year, the Bristol family is donating pansy plants on Mother's Day. This tradition was started by Ruth Bristol in the late 1940s in memory of her youngest son, 2nd Lieutenant Sterling W. Bristol, Jr., who died when the B-17 bomber that he piloted was shot down by the Germans in WWII. Dan Bristol and his son, Josh Bristol, now do the growing and feel warmly about carrying on this tradition for the fourth generation, in honor of Mother's Day. Thank you to the Bristol family for their generosity in continuing this beautiful tradition.*

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

**READING FROM SCRIPTURE**    Genesis 1, selected verses

**SERMON**    *The Family of Things*

## DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

**Creator God, as your spirit breathed over everything  
at the dawn of creation, may it breathe upon all our offerings  
and the intentions of our hearts within them,  
sending them on their way in the world  
to be bearers of loving care for all things. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

**Joys & Concerns, Pastoral Prayer**

**\*HYMN**    *Creating God, Your Fingers Trace*    Chalice (blue), 335

- 1. Creating God, your fingers trade the bold designs of farthest space;  
Let sun and moon and stars and light and what lies hidden praise your might.*
- 2. Sustaining God, your hands uphold earth's mysteries known or yet untold;  
Let water's fragile blend with air, enabling life, proclaim your care.*
- 3. Redeeming God, your arms embrace all now despised for creed or race;  
Let peace, descending like a dove, make known on earth your healing love.*
- 4. Indwelling God, your gospel claims one family with a billion names;  
Let every life be touched by grace until we praise you face to face.*

## \*BENEDICTION

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**    *The Lord Be with You*    Charles Yannerella  
Senior Choir

**\*POSTLUDE**    *God, Who Built This Wondrous Planet*    Craig Courtney