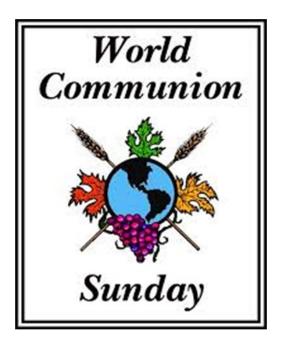


THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

October 2, 2022 ~ 10:00 a.m.

In Person & Live Streamed



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

184 Cherry Brook Road, PO Box 133, Canton Center CT 06020-0133 Church Office 860-693-4581 E-mail: office@cantoncenterchurch.org www.cantoncenterchurch.org *All who are able, please stand. **Bold** denotes unison voice.

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 Gift of Finest Wheat

Robert Kreutz arr. John Ferguson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome to this place,

where we bring our hungers and find food, where we bring ourselves and find acceptance.

Welcome to this place,

where we remember that "God's beloved" means us, but not only us: God's creation is a whole world.

Welcome to this place,

where we join with each other and with all others, seeking the Bread of Life.

*HYMN In Christ There Is No East or West Chalice (blue), 687

In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north, but one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find; His service is the golden cord close binding humankind.

Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be; All children of the loving God are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north; All loving hearts are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE, GATHERING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

<u>Reader</u>: Because God is infinite in love and gracious toward all, because God's mercy is greater than our transgression, we know that whatever is not yet fully loving and faithful, God can make new – even us, even here, even now. In this assurance, let us pray:

God of all the world and of infinite worlds, we praise the goodness of all you have made, even as we remember our failure to love all that you love. Because we divide what is whole and betray what is one, because we do violence to our world, we need your spirit of peace. God of our one world, may our hearts today receive your peace. In Christ's name 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**

Alleluia



READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

 1 Corinthians 10:14-17
 Pew Bible, p. 932

 John 6:25-35
 Pew Bible, p. 867

SERMON Bakery

ANTHEM Down to the River to Pray Senior Choir arr. Sheldon Curry

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

God of every goodness, may your spirit bless all the offerings we make, in every form they take, that we might be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

*HYMN	I Come with Joy	Chalice (blue), 420		
	Verses 1-4			

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.

I come with Christians far and near, to find, as all are fed, The new community of love, in Christ's communion bread, In Christ's communion bread.

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 spirit of the risen Christ, unseen but ever near, Is in such friendship better known, alive among us here, alive among us here.

THE SACRAMENT OF 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 also available on each.

Invitation

Friends, let us come to God's table, where all are invited,
where all alike are offered the bread of life.
Let us come because we are seeking and because we are open,
because we know our need for God.
Let us come with our sisters and brothers of the world,
because we know the world's need for God.

Prayer of Preparation

Recalling the Story: The Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, God of life, for the gifts of your table, reminders of all that nourishes us in body and in spirit, and of all that makes us one. As we go out into your world to live in peace with all,

may we learn to see the world with Christ's eyes and love the world with Christ's heart. Amen.

***HYMN** *I Come with Joy* Chalice (blue), 420 *Verse 5*

Together met, together bound by all that God has done, We'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one, The love that makes us one.

***BENEDICTION**

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE Sevenfold Amen Senior Choir

***POSTLUDE** *I Am the Bread of Life*

Sister Suzanne Toolan arr. Steven Warner

WELCOME

We're glad you've joined us for worship today.

Please know that whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Questions? Please feel free to ask the pastor, or call the church office during the week.

An Open and Affirming Congregation.

Announcements

The flowers this morning are given by Darryl Swain Haberern in loving memory of her parents, Edna & Robert Petersen.

Next Sun., Oct. 9: UCC Disabilities Awareness Week

Casey Levine, who has been involved with our Conference's Disability Awareness ministries, will share a reflection on that work.

Shop Scrip Today!

The Scrip table is open during coffee hour to supply all your gift card needs! We have lots of cards in our inventory that you can purchase and take home today. There are also over 750 different retailers you can place an order for and have your cards in one week. As mentioned in our recent mission moment, food banks can use gift cards to local grocery stores to purchase perishable items for their clients. Scrip is a great resource for helping the church while you help others!

Help Make a Hot Lunch and Sandwiches for Brian's Angels on Oct. 22nd

The Missions and Outreach Committee has made plans to have our congregation provide a hot meal to Brian's Angels Homeless Outreach in Bristol several times per year and to provide sandwiches approximately monthly. Brian's Angels serves lunch to approximately 50 people every Tuesday through Sunday. Among other services, they also send each person away with a snack bag with food such as sandwiches for dinner. We are looking for volunteers to help cook the hot meal and make sandwiches on Saturday, October 22nd. We'll meet in the church kitchen at 10:30 and work until approximately 12:30 to prepare the food. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the kitchen door. Please help feed those in need in the greater Canton area.

The Cake Auction is Back by Popular Demand!!

The Missions and Outreach Committee is sponsoring the return of the Cake Auction on **Sunday, Oct 30**th. All proceeds will be put into the committee's special fund to benefit food ministries such as the Canton Food Pantry, Brian's Angels, Hands of Grace, Thanksgiving meals, etc. The theme this year is Fall/Halloween.

CHICKEN PIE BUFFET

SAT., OCT 15TH ~ OPEN SEATING 4-6 PM

Handcrafted Chicken Pie, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Turnip, Green Beans, Coleslaw, Rolls, Cranberry Sauce, Beverage, Choice of Pie \$15. Adults \$6. Children under 12

We are looking for volunteers. Please see sign up sheets on the kitchen door.

STAGES OF FAITH:

A Small Group Learning Opportunity (in-person) Tues., Nov. 1, 7:00 p.m. OR Wed., Nov. 9, 10:30 a.m.

> Three article-length readings will be the basis for our discussion on a spectrum of stages of spiritual growth, and why it is that we can see things quite differently at different stages in our lives.

Please sign up for one of the sessions by contacting Rev. Brenda and to receive the materials.

Sunday 2	Monday 3	Tuesday 4	Wednesday 5	Thursday 6	Friday 7	Saturday 8
Worship & Communion 10:00 am	Choir 5 pm ACA 7 pm Al-Anon 7 pm	AA 7 pm	Diaconate 7 pm zoom	Cub Scouts Bell Choir 5:30 pm	Cub Scouts	AA 11:00 pm

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We gather as a welcoming community in worship, learning, service and fellowship to embody Christ's message of love, compassion and justice. Joining faith with action, both within and beyond our church, we strive to build a community that serves all.

An Open and Affirming Church

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszcza Director of Music: Mary Lou Keefe Sexton: Walt LeGeyt Office Manager: Kristen DiMattia Director of Faith Formation: Dr. Hollace Bristol Asst. Director of Faith Formation: Karen Needham Ministers: Every Member

Duty Deacons: Kristin Oswald & Tim Lundgren **Camera:** Casey Levine

God is still speaking !!! ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

Visit our website at <u>www.cantoncenterchurch.org</u>

Listen to recorded Sermons and Music from worship services!

Like us on Facebook

