



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

September 11, 2022 ~ 10:00 a.m.

GATHERING SUNDAY



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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 Lord's Day*

George Brandon

CALL TO WORSHIP

New day, new gifts;
new season, new hopes.
New faith, new life;
new seeing, new doing.
Here in this place, we gather in faith,
and the God of new beginnings is with us.

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

*Here in this place, the new light is streaming, shadows of doubt are vanished way.
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 shall 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 slowly; 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 songs and your daughters,
Call us anew 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 holy & hearts that are true.*

*Not just in buildings small and confining, not in some heaven lightyears 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 & THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Loving One, who has made this day and gathered us in it,
 who has given us life and called us to it,
 we give thanks for the sure presence of your Spirit,
 here and now, always and everywhere.
 Awaken us today and stir us,
 so that the love that moves us when we gather
 will claim us when we scatter,
 and guide us in all we do.
 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** *Alleluia*

1. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Hollace Bristol

Following this, children may go out to church school.

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Lamentations 3:22-24
 Ephesians 4:1-7, 22-24

Pew Bible, p. 669
 Pew Bible, p. 951

SERMON *The Gift of New Beginnings*

ANTHEM *Come to the Water*
Senior Choir

John Foley arr. Lynda Hasseler

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

***HYMN** *Ours the Journey* Chalice (blue), 458

*In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples, wandering their separate ways?*

*Refrain: God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey now and evermore.*

*Through the flood of starving peoples, warring factions and despair,
Who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?*

(Refrain)

*Though we reach the highest heavens, holding worlds at our command,
We are yet a desert people searching for the promised land.*

(Refrain)

*Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,
May your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again.*

(Refrain)

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Morning Has Broken*
Senior Choir

***POSTLUDE** *One Church, One Faith, Your Hand, O God* Keith Getty arr. Larry Shackley