



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

September 18, 2022 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



184 Cherry Brook Road, PO Box 133, Canton Center, CT 06020-0133

Office 860-693-4581

E-mail: office@cantoncenterchurch.org

www.cantoncenterchurch.org

~ 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 Spirit Song

John Wimber

CALL TO WORSHIP

Friends, let us be gathered in heart,
 as we remember again the goodness of God.
Let us be gathered in faith,
 as we awaken again to the wisdom of Christ.
Let us be gathered in hope,
 as we see again the beauty of creation.
Let us be gathered in peace,
 as we are touched again by the Holy Spirit.

***HYMN** *The Sun Is on the Sea and Shore* Chalice (blue), 3

*The sun is on the sea and shore, a new day has begun;
With morning hymns we will adore the blessed Three in One;
And we shall praise you evermore until the day is done.*

*Your love is ever in our view, like shining stars by night.
Your gifts are every morning new, O God of love and light;
Your mercy, like the heaven's blue, fills all our dazzled sight.*

*We do not know what grief and care each coming day may bring;
The heart shall find some gladness there that trusts you in each thing;
The life that serves you everywhere will never cease to sing.*

GATHERING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Loving God, as we live the gift of this day
may we be mindful of your presence,
in us, with us and through us.

In every choice and decision,
in every thought, word and deed,
may we strive to follow the way of love,
the way of peace, the way of Christ.

In his 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 in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The first staff contains the melody and accompaniment for the first line of lyrics: "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 of lyrics: "Bless God, who was, and is, and shall ev - er be the same!". The lyrics are written below the notes.

ANTHEM *In My Father's House* Craig Courtney & Pamela Martin
The Senior Choir

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS Karen Needham & Jennifer Herbek

Following this, children may go out to church school.

READING FROM SCRIPTURE Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Pew Bible, p. 163

SERMON *On Choosing*

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

God of every goodness,
may your spirit bless all the offerings we make,
in every form they take,
that they might become Christ-like love in our world. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

***HYMN** *Be Thou My Vision* Chalice (blue), 595

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art,
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*Be thou my wisdom and thou my true word,
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my redeemer, my love thou hast won,
Thou in me dwelling and I with thee one.*

*Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*Great God of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Sevenfold Amen*
The Senior Choir

***POSTLUDE** *O Breath of Life* (St. Clement) Bessie Porter Head