



# THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

October 16, 2022 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost



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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 or front of the church.*

**PRELUDE** *The Lord is my Shepherd*

Peter Tchaikovsky arr. Maxwell/Feibel

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come, people of God, and be gathered in peace,  
**for it is God who gathers us.**

Today let our hearts be lifted and our lives renewed,  
**for it is the Spirit that renews us.**

Whether from places of need or places of strength,  
**with hearts of fear or hearts of love,**  
we come to this time of worship with our whole selves,  
**and listen for God's voice.**

**\*HYMN** O God, Our Help in Ages Past Chalice (blue), 67  
*Verses 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6*

*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 its 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.*

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

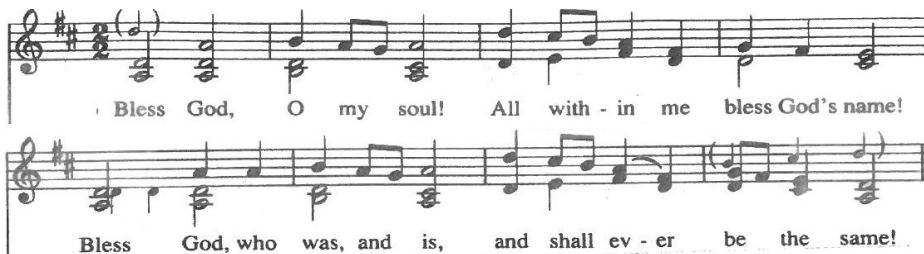
## \*GATHERING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Loving God, present to us in this and all days,  
walking with us through joys and trials,  
through seasons and years,  
desiring for us the bonds of care and a world at peace,  
today we listen again for your leading and watch for your wisdom.  
Help us to remember what is true and right, just and holy,  
so that whatever lies upon our paths,  
we might live them with patient care and persistent hope.  
We gather our prayers into one prayer, as we 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 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 written below the notes.

## RECOGNITION OF LONG-TIME MEMBERS

Hugh Anderson for the Diaconate

25 years

Katha Kerr

Matt & Linda Solomon (MD)

40 years

Bill & Peggy Borchert

Lloyd & Betty Erickson (FL)

Gail Pedersen (FL)

## ANTHEM

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

Senior Choir

Derek Hakes

*Following this, children may leave for church school.*

## READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Luke 18:1-8, Pew Bible p. 853; 2 Tim. 4:1-5, Pew Bible p. 968

## SERMON

*On Persistence*

## DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

The God of every goodness blesses us abundantly,  
**giving us gifts to use for the blessing of the world.**

From our own lives into the lives of others,  
**may the offerings we make,  
in all the forms they take,  
help us be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.**

\*Doxology

Tune: Old Hundredth

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below,  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore,  
One God, triune, whom we adore*

\*Prayer of Dedication

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

\*HYMN      *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*      Chalice (blue), 638

*In the bulb, there is a flower, in the seed, an apple tree;  
In cocoons, a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and dark of winter, there's a spring that waits to be,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

## \*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE      *The Lord be with You*      Yannerella  
Senior Choir

\*POSTLUDE      *Seek Ye*      First/Pachelbel Canon      arr. Karen Lafferty