



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

October 9, 2022 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



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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 or front of the church.*

PRELUDE *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*

Hohann Sebastian Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

The sinners, the saints, the broken, the whole:

all come together in this sacred place.

The doubters, the devout, the wonderers, the wanderers:

all are gathered in by the same Spirit.

All God's people, with all our gifts and all our stories,

are called into the circle of belonging.

Friends, let us center again in the great Love,

that calls us together and makes us one.

***HYMN**

O God of Vision

Chalice (blue), 288

Verses 1-4

*O God of vision far greater than all human scheming,
Gather us now in your presence, refreshing, redeeming.
Show us anew life in your breathtaking view,
Lovely beyond all our dreaming.*

*Pour out your Spirit on all now assembled before you.
May our diversity here be a means to adore you.
Women and men, young, old and youthful-again,
Make us as one, we implore you.*

*Grant to us insight, O God, for this time of decision.
May we dream challenging dreams of both depth and precision.
Speak through the dark, dispel by lightning's bright spark
Whatever clouds dim our vision.*

*Break the sun's rays into color, a rainbow around us.
Storm clouds, though real and near, are not enough to confound us.
Arched in the sky, beauty and promise are high,
Giving us hope to astound us.*

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

O God whose heart is love, whose love is everywhere,
may we come with attentive spirits today
to remember that you call us together into one body,
many parts of one whole.
Whoever we are and whatever our gifts,
may we experience again today the love that welcomes
and the peace that centers,
the faith that renews and the grace that heals.
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** *Bless God, O My Soul*

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the song 'Bless God, O My Soul'. 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 music is written in a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature.

REFLECTION ON DISABILITIES AWARENESS

Casey Levine

ANTHEM *The Gift of Love* arr. Hal Hopson (based on hymn tune O Wali Wali)

Following this, children may leave for church school.

READING FROM SCRIPTURE I Corinthians 12:4-27

Pew Bible P. 933

SERMON "Maybe We're All Disabled"

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 & Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

***HYMN** *Take My Gifts* Chalice (blue), 381

*Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, give me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!*

*Take the fruit that I have gathered from the tree your Spirit sowed,
Harvest of your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God,
Spiced with humor, laced with laughter, flavor of the Jesus life,
Tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief.*

*Take whatever I can offer, gifts that I have yet to find,
Skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind,
Things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be:
Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.*

*BENEDICTION

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE (sung by all)** Tune: Dove of Peace

*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.*

***POSTLUDE** *All Good Gifts* Stephen Schwartz (from Godspell)

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

Director of Music: Mary Lou Keefe

Sexton: Walt LeGeyt

Dir. of Faith Formation: Dr. Hollace Bristol

Asst. Dir. of Faith Formation: Karen Needham

Office Manager: Kristen DiMattia

Ministers: Every Member **Duty Deacons:** Casey Levine & Tim Lungren **Camera:** Steve Byko