



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

November 6, 2022 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

**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 *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* (Beach Spring) American Trad. B. F. White

CALL TO WORSHIP

Friends, we gather in the presence of our life-giving God,
trusting in the One who calls us to life.

Here we remember that we are beloved,
we and all that God has made.

Here we remember the gift of creation,
its beauty, its miracles, all knit together.

Here we remember that God is still creating,
and calling us to use our gifts in a world for all.

Let us be at worship, for God is in the midst of us,
and we are in the midst of God.

***HYMN** *Awake, Awake to Love and Work* Pilgrim (red), 34

*Awake, awake, to love and work! The lark is in the sky;
The fields are wet with diamond dew; the worlds awake to cry
Their blessings on the Lord of life, as he goes meekly by.*

*Come, let thy voice be one with theirs, shout with their shouts of praise;
See how the giant sun soars up, great lord of years and days!
So let the love of Jesus come and set thy soul ablaze.*

*To give and give, and give again, what God has given thee;
To spend thyself nor count the cost; to serve right gloriously
The God who gave all worlds that are, and all that are to be.*

*GATHERING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Loving God, present to us in this day and in all days,
walking with us through joys and trials,
desiring for us the bonds of care and a world at peace,
today as we listen for your leading and watch for your wisdom,
help us to remember what is true and right,
what is just and holy,
so that whatever lies upon our paths,
we might live them in love and in faith.

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 continues 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.

ANTHEM *Set Your Hearts on the Higher Gifts*
Senior Choir

Steven Warner

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25:14-30

Pew Bible, p. 807

SERMON *Knit into the Kingdom*

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 and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

*HYMN *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly* Chalice (blue), 419
Verses 1 and 3

*All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wand'ring; here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal, taste and see that God is good.*

*All who hunger, sing together, Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing; here, in peace, we have been fed.
Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal, taste and see that God is good.*

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 in Christ, we come to this table of grace,
each of us individually and all of us together.
We come to this table of blessing,
to meet the Risen One who calls us --

we who have much faith and we who struggle with faith,
we who have been here often and we who have not.
Each of us and all of us participate in this one table,
because Christ invites us and God welcomes us,
because the Spirit makes us one body.

Prayer of Preparation

Recalling the Story: The Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Loving God, giver of life and new life,
we thank you for all your good gifts.
Now fed by your love, we go out into the day and the week,
to live in peace with all,
to be bread for each other and light for the world. Amen.

***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, gave 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**

Sevenfold Amen

Senior Choir

***POSTLUDE** *Lord, Above All other Treasures*

J. S. Bach

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 Jan Tanner & family
in loving memory of Rosalie Bolland, my mom and
Gramma Schramm, for whom I will be forever grateful.*

AFTER THE SERVICE TODAY: COME ON A HIKE! *(rescheduled from Oct. 23)*

The FCCCC Happy Wanderers will hike on the beautiful grounds of the Sun, Wind and Woodland Preserve in Canton – no more than 4 miles and/or 2 hrs. Meet in the Parish Hall during coffee hour to organize caravan (or arrange to meet us there).

STAGES OF FAITH: A Small Group Learning Opportunity (in-person) Wed., Nov. 9, 10:30 a.m.

Do you ever wonder why for some, religion is all rewards & punishments, while for others it's not about that at all? Or why you can find yourself saying "I used to see God one way.... now I see God a different way..."? 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. They can be emailed to you, or picked up at church.

SHOP SCRIP TODAY! - The Scrip table is open during coffee hour to supply all your gift card needs! The Missions committee is collecting gift cards for Target and Walmart for Wellmore and we have plenty in stock. We also have lots of Shop Rite and Stop & Shop, which are great to donate to the food bank to purchase perishable items for their clients. Scrip is a great resource for helping the church while you help others! Stop by the table to pick up the list of all our available brands so you can start planning for Christmas as well!

THANKSGIVING POT-LUNCH LUNCHEON - SUN., NOV. 20, AFTER THE SERVICE

Our traditional Thanksgiving-time fellowship event is back! Turkeys and side dishes needed to make our feast. See sign-up on the kitchen door.

HELPING FAMILIES IN CANTON FOR THANKSGIVING - The Canton Senior and Social Services Department and the Canton Food Bank will be working together to distribute 50 Thanksgiving Food Boxes to their clients. Our congregation has been asked to help by donating **boxes of instant mashed potatoes and cans of turkey gravy**. Donations can be left in the Missions Box next to the kitchen door by Sunday, November 13th.

BRIAN'S ANGELS - Please consider helping to **make sandwiches for Brian's Angels, on Friday, Nov. 18th at 11:00 am**. Brian's Angels Homeless Outreach in Bristol 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. Please consider helping since it only takes an hour when we have enough people. A sign up sheet will be on the kitchen door.

COLLECTION FOR WELLMORE - Our mission box collections for November will be **gift cards for Christmas for Wellmore**. Gift cards should be for **Walmart and Target** and can be easily purchased through our Scrip program. Let's make the season joyful for Wellmore, who provides social services to many families in Western Connecticut.

TAKE A LOOK AT OUR NEW SANCTUARY TABLES! We are so grateful to Aaron Levine, who has made two new beautiful wooden tables for the back of our sanctuary, crafted and finished to match our worship space. What a wonderful addition!

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka
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: Hugh Anderson & Casey Levine
Camera: Steve Byko

Sunday 6	Monday 7	Tuesday 8	Wednesday 9	Thursday 10	Friday 11	Saturday 12
Worship & Communion 10:00 am	Choir 5 pm ACA 7 pm Al-Anon 7 pm	AA 7 pm	Stages of Faith Discussion 10:30 am	Bell Choir 5:30 pm		AA 11:00 pm

