



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

January 15, 2023 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday after Epiphany

10:00 a.m.



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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

Will You Come Follow Me

Bell/Maule arr. Tom Trenney

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the days of a new year we gather,
to give new voice to an ancient faith:
to remember that the God who is from the beginning
is also here and now;
to remember that to follow Jesus
is to follow him in the ways of love.
Friends, let us be at worship, grateful for all good gifts,
and open to those that this day will bring.

*HYMN

All Beautiful the March of Days

Pilgrim (red) 456

*All beautiful the march of days, as seasons come and go;
The hand that shaped the rose hath wrought the crystal of the snow,
Hath sent the hoary frost of heaven, the flowing waters sealed,
And laid a silent loveliness on hill and wood and field.*

*O'er white expanses sparkling pure the radiant morns unfold;
The solemn splendors of the night burn brighter through the cold.
Life mounts in every throbbing vein, love deepens round the hearth,
And clearer sounds the angel hymn "Good will to [all] on earth."*

*O thou from whose unfathomed law the year in beauty flows,
Thyself the vision passing by in crystal and in rose,
Day unto day doth utter speech, and night to night proclaim,
In ever-changing words of light, the wonder of thy name.*

*GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Spirit around us and within us,
Spirit of newness, hope and life,
may it be with the deepest of joy and the greatest of hope
that we lift our own spirits today to you.
May it be with hearts grateful for histories
and open for futures
that we gather in this place,
ready to learn again the ways of love, compassion and justice
for our lives and for our world.
This we ask in Christ's name and spirit, 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 a sung response. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/2 time signature. The melody is written on the upper line, and the bass line is on the lower line. The lyrics are: "Bless God, O my soul! All with - in me bless God's name!" The second staff continues the melody and bass line with the lyrics: "Bless God, who was, and is, and shall ev - er be the same!"

ANTHEM

Speak, O Lord
Senior Choir

Getty/Townend arr. Mary McDonald

Following this, children may go to church school.

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 43:1-3a, 4a Pew Bible, p. 585
Matthew 3:13-17 Pew Bible, p. 784

SERMON

"Beloved"

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

We are grateful for our gifts,
and for the ability to give them.
We are mindful of our place in the web of creation,
and of the ways our generosity is needed.
Because we are the people of God and the community of Christ,
we open our hearts to the world around us.

*Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God for all that love has done,
Creator, Christ and Spirit, One.*

*Prayer of Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

*HYMN *Spirit, Come, Dispel Our Sadness* Chalice (blue), 253

*Spirit, come, dispel our sadness; pierce the clouds of nature's night;
Come, O Source of joy and gladness, breathe your life and spread your light.
From the height that knows no measure, as a gracious shower descend,
Bringing down the richest treasure we can wish, or God can send.*

*Let your fire heal our dissensions, let your flame refine our goals,
Let our peace resolve our tensions, send our dove to soothe our souls.
Let your wind flow fresh within us, sweeping clean all hate and strife
From our hearts, O come and win us for a more abundant life.*

*Author of the new creation, come anoint us with your power.
Make our hearts your habitation, with our grace our spirits shower.
Hear, O hear our supplication, blessed Spirit, God of peace!
Rest upon this congregation with the fullness of your grace.*

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Amen*

*Members of the church are asked to remain in place in the sanctuary for the congregational meeting.
Children will remain in the care of church school leaders during the meeting. Coffee hour will follow.*