



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

January 22, 2023 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Third 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 Psalm 139 Lord, You Have Searched Me and Known Me arr. Allen Pote

CALL TO WORSHIP

From our everyday places and our everyday lives, God calls us,
to be those who follow Jesus in the everyday world.

From preoccupation with ourselves, God calls us,
to be those devoted to finding each other.

Whoever we are, whatever our story,
God gathers us in for the work of love.

Now on this day, here in this place,
Love finds us again and calls us to follow.

***HYMN** Gather Us In Chalice (blue), 284

*Here in this place, the new light is streaming, shadows of doubt are vanished way.
See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in, our spirits inflame.
Call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.*

*We are the young, our lives are a mystery; we are the old, who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty, gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so slowly; give us the courage to enter the song.*

*Here we receive new life in the waters, here we receive the bread of new birth;
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you;
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion lives that holy & hearts that are true.*

*Not just in buildings small and confining, not in some heaven light-years away,
Here in this place the new light is shining: now is God present and now is the day!
Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

*GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

God of grace, you have gathered us once more
and we hear again your call to us:
to awaken where we are and follow where you lead.

Help us to live with faithfulness and humility,
led not by our need to prevail
but by a sincere desire to love and to serve.

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 the song 'Bless God, O My Soul'. The music is in a 2/2 time signature with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes.

Bless God, O my soul! All with - in me bless God's name!
Bless God, who was, and is, and shall ev - er be the same!

ANTHEM *Will You Come and Follow Me* The Summons Bell/Maule Tom Trenney
Senior Choir

FOURTH SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION FOR THE CANTON FOOD BANK

Following this, children may go to church school.

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Matthew 4:12-23 Pew Bible, p. 785

SERMON "The Long View"

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 are 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** *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore* Chalice (blue), 342

*1. Lord, you have come to the lakeshore, looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones,
You only asked me to follow humbly.*

*Refrain: O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
And while smiling, have spoken my name;
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
By your side, I will seek other seas.*

*2. You know so well my possession; my boat carries no gold and no weapons;
You will find there my nets and labor.*

(Refrain)

*3. You need my hands full of caring, through my labors to give others rest,
And constant love that keeps on loving.*

(Refrain)

*4. You, who have fished other oceans, ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
My loving friend, as thus you call me.*

(Refrain)

***BENEDICTION**

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

***POSTLUDE** *City of God* Daniel Schutte arr. Jane Holstein