



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

February 19, 2023 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany



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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 *Bless the Lord, My Soul*

J. S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

The people of God awaken to a new day,
where God gives us gifts for living.
The people of God come with open hearts,
to receive God's gifts for serving.
Come, friends in Christ, friends of Christ,
and remember our call to live his peace.

***HYMN** *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* Pilgrim (red), 68

*I sing the mighty power of God, that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at his command, and all the stars obey.*

*I sing the goodness of the Lord, that filled the earth with food;
He formed the creatures with his word, and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye;
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!*

*There's not a plant or flower below but makes thy glories known;
And clouds arise and tempests blow by order from thy throne;
While all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,
And everywhere that [we] can be, thou, God, art present there.*

*GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Loving God, as we live the gift of this day,
may we be mindful of your presence,
in us, with us, and through us.

In every choice and decision we make,
in every thought, word and deed,
may we strive to follow the way of love,
the way of peace,
the way of Christ.

In his 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

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 *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, in honor of Black History Month Johnson and Johnson,
The Senior Choir arr. Allen Pote

Following this, children may go to church school.

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 2:11-20

Pew Bible, p. 950

John 1:29-34

Pew Bible, p. 862

SERMON *He Is Our Peace*

The Rev. Terry Schmitt

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. Amen.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

***HYMN** *God of Grace and God of Glory* Chalice (blue), 464

*God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
Crown thine ancient church's story, bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.*

*Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail thy ways!
From the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the living of these days.*

*Cure thy children's warring madness, bend our pride to thy control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy righteous goal, lest we miss thy righteous goal.*

*Set our feet on lofty places; fill our lives that they we may be
Strengthened with all Christ-like graces pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we fail our call from thee, lest we fail our call from thee.*

*Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
Let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.*

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Go in Peace*
The Senior Choir

***POSTLUDE** *Gavotte*

George Handel