



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

February 26, 2023 ~ 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday in Lent



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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 *Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace* (Prayer of St. Frances) arr. Howard Helvey

CALL TO WORSHIP

Friends, we gather to be the community of Christ in a new season.

**We gather to be a Lenten people,
seeking God with heart and soul, with mind and strength.**

On this day, let us remember what it means to love God,
and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

On this day, let us remember our source of strength in time of trial:
God-with-us in all things.

On this day, let us be fully present as the Spirit speaks,
in us, through us, and for our sakes.

***HYMN** *Before the Cross of Jesus* Pilgrim (red), 161

*Before the cross of Jesus our lives are judged today;
The meaning of our eager strife is tested by his Way.
Across our restless living the light streams from his cross,
And by its clear, revealing beams we measure gain and loss.*

*The hopes that lead us onward, the fears that hold us back,
Our will to dare great things for God, the courage that we lack,
The faith we keep in goodness, our love, as low or pure,
On all, the judgment of the cross falls steady, clear and sure.*

*Yet humbly, in our striving, O God, we face its test.
We crave the power to do thy will, with him who did it best.
On us let now the healing of his great spirit fall,
And make us brave and full of joy to answer to his call.*

***GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**We begin this Lenten journey, O God,
to remember the love that holds us**

and the gospel that claims us;
to confess that by its light we can see our limits,
by its truth we can see our mistakes.
Together we begin this Lenten journey,
following the one who is crucified yet risen,
who calls us out of shadow into light,
who teaches us the fullness of love and the power of faithfulness.
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 the Lord, My Soul

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a tempo marking of quarter note = 10 and a dynamic marking of *p*. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name." The second system has a dynamic marking of *p* and the lyrics: "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." The piano accompaniment includes chord symbols: Dm, G, Dm, Bb, C, and Dm. The score is in 4/4 time and the key signature has one flat (Bb).

ANTHEM *The Ukrainian National Anthem*, in solidarity with the people of Ukraine
The Senior Choir

MOMENT FOR MISSION Dale Picard, ECAD (*Educated Canines Assisting with Disabilities*)

FOURTH SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION

Following this, children may go to church school.

READING FROM SCRIPTURE Luke 4:1-13 Pew Bible, p 835

SERMON *Remember Who You Are*

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**

*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** *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* Pilgrim (red), 363

*A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.*

*Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
Were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same,
And he must win the battle.*

*And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure:
One little world shall fell him.*

*That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill, God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.*

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Amen*

***POSTLUDE** *Oh Jesus, I Have Promised* Wolvercote version