



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

February 5, 2023 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

Church Office 860-693-4581

E-mail: office@cantoncenterchurch.org

www.cantoncenterchurch.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP

**All who are able, please stand.*

***Bold** denotes unison voice.*

CHIMES

Karen Needham

WELCOME AND 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 *Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace*

Howard Helvey

CALL TO WORSHIP

Friends, we gather once more as a community of faith,
turning to God with heart and soul, with mind and strength.

We've come to remember what it means to love God,
and to love all that God loves.

As we live the gift of this day, we keep our eyes on Jesus,
who teaches us a selfless way.

May this day's graces awaken us and deepen our knowing
that we carry God's love in this world.

***HYMN** *The Gift of Love* Chalice (blue), 526

*Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass and hopeless gain.*

*Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
But not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.*

*Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed, by this we worship, and are freed.*

*GATHERING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Creator God, giver of life and new life,
from the midst of our everyday places we've come,
that we might know again the touch of your Spirit.
Help us to hear our call as the Body of Christ,
and to keep at the heart of our lives
all that serves your purposes in us.
May we experience again today
the word that renews us,
the grace that redeems us,
the love that finds us.

This we pray 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

Alleluia

1. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

READING FROM SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Pew Bible, p. 934

SERMON *First Things First*

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

Steven Warner

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 generousities 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 & Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

*HYMN *A Hymn of Joy We Sing* Chalice (blue), 404

*A hymn of joy we sing around your table, Lord;
Again our grateful tribute bring, our solemn vows record.*

*Here do we see your face, and feel your presence here;
So may the savor of your grace in word and life appear.*

*In self-forgetting love be our communion shown,
Until we join the church above, and know as we are known.*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be served in the pews; all are welcome to participate. 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 plate. The juice trays hold non-alcoholic grape juice, with a few cups of water also available on each.

Invitation

As we come to Christ's table, we remember that we are one body,
that God's love makes us one,

**whoever we are, whatever our journey,
whether we have been here many times before or never before.**

We remember that we are gathered in the spirit of the Risen Christ,
who sees not our differences but our oneness.

**As the many grains of wheat become the one loaf
and the many grapes become the one cup,
so do we become the one Body of Christ.**

Let this sacrament renew us in faith, hope and love,

binding us in covenant with God and with all others.

Prayer of Preparation

Recalling the Story: The Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**We give thanks to you, Holy One, for the gifts of your table,
reminders of all that strengthens us for faithful life.**

**As we go out into the world to live the gospel,
we pray that today and tomorrow
we might learn to see the world with Christ's eyes
and love the world with Christ's heart. Amen.**

***HYMN** *Go in Peace* Chalice (blue), 445

Go in peace and the peace of God be with you this day.

Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.

Celebrate and share the joy! Celebrate new life!

Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.

*BENEDICTION

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** Verse from *The Gift of Love* Hal Hopson tune *Wali Wali*
Senior Choir

***POSTLUDE** *Lord, Above All Other Treasures*

J.S. Bach arr. Roberta Bitgood

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!

If you're visiting, we invite you to fill out a visitor's card (found in the pews or on the back tables) and place it in an offering box, to help us better connect with you.

Looking for more information about the church?
Please feel free to ask the pastor or contact the church office during the week.

Masking is optional and masks may be found on the back tables.

An Open and Affirming Congregation

*The flowers are given by Walter, Joe & Allyson
in loving memory of Zachary Austin LeGeyt*

Small Group Opportunity: Sharing Our Stories -- Thurs., Feb. 16, 10:30 a.m.

An opportunity to engage in the meaningful process of sharing with each other short narratives about ourselves as people of faith, using a few carefully selected objects of our choice to tell our story. Both story telling and story listening are important to the fabric of faith community. See flyers for fuller info. (on literature table outside the kitchen, and on the tables at the back of the sanctuary). Please let Rev. Brenda know if you are interested.

Offering Envelopes

If you have requested offering envelopes, they can be found on the table near the kitchen.

Missions Box Collection for February

Twin Sheets, Blankets, new pillows to support IRIS (Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services)

Brian's Angels

We will be making sandwiches on Friday, February 24th at 11.
In March, we'll make a meal and sandwiches starting at 10 on Friday, March 24th.

Ash Wednesday ~ February 22

Supper at 6:00 pm and Service at 6:45 pm

Chili for a Chilly February

Join the chili cook-off and games/sledding on Saturday, February 25 at 12 noon.
See back cover and sign up sheet on bulletin board.

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

of the First Congregational Church, Canton Center, Connecticut, on Sunday, **March 5, 2023**
at 10:45 a.m. OR on subsequent Sundays at 10:45 a.m. until a quorum is obtained.

AGENDA:

1. Call to order and opening prayer.
2. Reading of the call to the meeting.
3. Presentation of the Minutes from the previous meeting(s).
4. Receiving and accepting of the reports of the church officers, committee chairpersons, and staff.
5. Presentation, discussion and vote on bylaws amendment #15 - Article VII, entitled Church Council, Section A, after the phrase "one representative from each of the following boards and committees:", the following shall be inserted: "the Nominating Committee".
6. Any other business proper to come before the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, *Bev Sealand, Clerk*

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

Dir. of Faith Formation: Dr. Hollace Bristol

Sexton: Walt LeGeyt

Ministers: Every Member

Director of Music: Mary Lou Keefe

Asst. Dir. of Faith Form.: Karen Needham

Office Manager: Kristen DiMattia

Duty Deacons: Casey Levine & Hugh Anderson

Coffee Hour: Kristin Oswald & Darryl Haberern

Camera: Craig McAllister

Sunday 5	Monday 6	Tuesday 7	Wednesday 8	Thursday 9	Friday 10	Saturday 11
Communion & Worship 10:00 am	Choir 5 pm AI-Anon & ACA 7:00 pm	AA 7:00 pm		Choir 5:30 pm		Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby am AA 11:00 pm

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We gather as a welcoming community in worship, learning, service and fellowship to embody Christ's message of love, compassion and justice.

Joining faith with action, both within and beyond our church, we strive to build a community that serves all.

CHILI FOR A CHILLY FEBRUARY

Join the chili cook-off on 2/25/2023 12:00 Noon

**Bring a pot of chili to the contest-
We'll all have some and...**

**If you don't want to cook
just come and eat and
vote...**

Let the voting begin!

**There will be plenty for
everyone!**



**Sledding on
Church Hill
Downs
(Snow
Permitting)**

**Bring a board
game to play
with friends
and family**



**Play
Cards**



**Bring your friends and
neighbors and we'll all
Have Fun**

**Everyone is
invited
It's FREE!**

**Wider Church Fellowship will
provide condiments to go
with chili and drinks. Please
sign up on the kitchen door if
you plan to come. Also,
please indicate if you will be
able to bring some corn
bread to share.**