



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

March 12, 2023 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Third 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 *O For a Song*

Deborah Govenor

CALL TO WORSHIP

Friends, let us be gathered in heart,

as we remember again the goodness of God.

Let us be gathered in faith,

as we awaken again to the wisdom of Christ.

Let us be gathered in hope,

as we are touched again by the power of the Spirit.

Let us be gathered in peace,

for God is in the midst of us and we are in the midst of God.

***HYMN** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* Pilgrim (red), 228

*Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down;
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.*

*Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit, let us find thy promised rest;
Take away the love of sinning, Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.*

*Come, almighty, to deliver, let us all thy live receive;
Suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above;
Pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.*

*Finish, then, thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.*

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

Loving God, as we live the gift of this day,
we give thanks for your presence with us in all things.

As we travel the path of this day,
may we be mindful of your love moving in us,
with us, and through us.

Across all that divides your people in this world,
may we find the ways of belonging and care,
striving to follow the way of peace,
the way of compassion,
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 the Lord, My Soul

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of two systems. The first system has a treble and bass staff. The treble staff begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 100 and a dynamic marking of *p*. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name." The second system also has a treble and bass staff. Above the treble staff are the chords: Dm, G, Dm, Bb, C, Dm. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and bar lines.

ANTHEM *Come to the Water*
The Senior Choir

John Foley arr. Lynda Hassler

Following this, children may go to church school.

READING FROM SCRIPTURE John 4:5-30 Pew Bible page 864

SERMON *Water from the Well*

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. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

***HYMN** *Help Us Accept Each Other* Chalice (blue), 487

*Help us accept each other, as Christ accepted us;
Teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us, and bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.*

*Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
We struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
To love them as we find them or as they may become.*

*Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
In living situations to do the truth the in love;
To practice your acceptance, until we know by heart
The table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.*

*Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
Who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
We need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;
Renew us with your Spirit – Lord, free us, make us one.*

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Amen*

***POSTLUDE** *Prelude in Classic Style* Gordon Young

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 are visiting today, please help us get to know you better by filling out
one of the visitor cards in the pews and placing it in the offering plate.
Questions? Please feel free to ask the pastor, or call the church office during the week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The flowers today are given by the Potter family
in loving memory of our parents and grandparents.*

TODAY – meeting for prospective new members
11:15 in the Corner Room (downstairs near offices).
Inquirers are welcome to attend, without obligation.

Small-group opportunities for Lent

WHEN GOD FALLS OFF THE CEILING

Wed., Mar. 22, 7:00 p.m. OR Thurs., Mar. 23, 10:30 a.m

**We'll read one chapter from Robin Meyers' book *Saving God from Religion*,
and consider his idea that the modern church has "a God crisis"
and that our basic ideas of God need to be re-thought.**

(Handout is available)

EASTER FLOWERS

With Easter just around the corner, it's time to order plants for our Easter Sunday service!

Lilies (\$14.00) and tulips (\$8.00) may be given in memory/celebration/honor of.

Please remember to take your plants after the Easter service to enjoy at home.

Orders for plants will be accepted through Friday, March 31,
and forms will be available in the Easter Basket at the back of the church until then.

Thank you!

BRIAN'S ANGELS

On **Friday, March 24th at 10:00 am** we will start making a meal and at 11:00 am we will make sandwiches for those of you that want to help with that. There will be a sign up sheet on the kitchen door.

CLEAN SWEEP CLEANING SUPPLIES DRIVE

The Missions and Outreach Committee is working with Canton Social Services Dept. to benefit the Canton Food Bank with a Cleaning Supply Drive.

Dish detergent, dishwasher detergent, laundry detergent, all purpose cleaners and sponges can be collected now through **March 23rd in the Missions Collection Box.**

Thank you!

“FOCUS ON CANTON” IS BEING REVITALIZED!

This organization that has served the Canton community, providing financial and other support to residents in difficult times, is being revitalized after a pandemic-affected few years.

A meeting is being held for all who are interested in renewing this important service group:

Thurs., March 23, 7:00 p.m. in Room D of the Canton Community Center.

If you prefer to participate via Zoom, that option will be available.

Please contact Rina Pane with questions, or to let her know of your interest:

rinapane@aol.com, or 860-670-5865.

Sunday 12	Monday 13	Tuesday 14	Wednesday 15	Thursday 16	Friday 17	Saturday 18
Worship 10:00 am New Member Mtg. 11:15 am Pretzel Making	Music Cmt. 4:30 pm Choir 5 pm Trustees 7 pm ACA & Al-Anon 7 pm	AA 7 pm	Council 7 pm	Choir 5:30 pm		AA 11 pm

