



# THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

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

Fifth Sunday in Lent



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*\*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

*I am Thine, O Lord*

William Doane arr. Susan Geschke

## CALL TO WORSHIP

We are thankful for the gift of this day,

**and we remember that God is everywhere in it.**

As we travel these days of Lent, we keep our eyes on Jesus,

**and we remember what it means to follow him.**

Friends, let our worship today stir our hearts and awaken our minds;

**let it open us for lives of love.**

## \*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 & THE LORD’S PRAYER**

God of love, as we gather today  
 and bring our stories and ourselves,  
 remind us that we are your own beloved –  
 whoever we are and whatever our journey.  
 Touch our places of need, awaken our places of hope,  
 strengthen our courage, deepen our faith,  
 so that we might go out and live like Jesus,  
 brave for the work of love.  
 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 in a common time signature (C) with a tempo marking of quarter note = 10. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics for the first system are: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name." The second system also has a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics for the second system are: "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." Above the second system, the following chords are indicated: Dm, G, Dm, Bb, C, Dm. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

**ANTHEM**            *Be Still*  
The Senior Choir

Fromback/McDonald

**MOMENT FOR MISSIONS**

Kendall Rees

**FOURTH SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION**

*Following this, children may go out to church school.*

**READING FROM SCRIPTURE**

Luke 4:14-30            Pew Bible, p. 835  
Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-15    Pew Bible, p. 951

**SERMON**            *Growing Up to Look Like Jesus*

**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**     *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*                      Chalice (blue), 589

*Lord, I want to be a Christian, in my heart, in my heart;*

*Lord, I want to be a Christian, in my heart.*

*In my heart, in my heart,*

*Lord, I want to be a Christian, in my heart.*

*Lord, I want to be more loving, in my heart, in my heart;*

*Lord, I want to be more loving, in my heart.*

*In my heart, in my heart,*

*Lord, I want to be more loving, in my heart.*

*Lord, I want to be like Jesus, in my heart, in my heart;*

*Lord, I want to be like Jesus, in my heart.*

*In my heart, in my heart,*

*Lord, I want to be like Jesus, in my heart.*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**     *Amen*

**\*POSTLUDE**                      *One Church, One Faith*                      Keith Getty, arr. Larry Shackley

## 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.

*The flowers today are given by Charlie & Donna Hammond  
in celebration of their family, past and present.*

## NEXT SUN., APRIL 2, PALM SUNDAY, BEGINNING OF HOLY WEEK

- Special music by vocal and handbell choirs in the service;
- Potluck luncheon after the service (sign-up on kitchen door)

## SPRINGTIME HIKE - TODAY

Happy Wanderers are going on a springtime hike after church today.  
We will explore another of the Canton Land Conservation Trust trails along Breezy Hill.  
The Sun, Wind and Woodland group of trails offers diversity and beauty with easy to moderate walking.  
We will meet in the Parish Hall after church. Please bring water and comfortable hiking shoes.  
We will plan to walk for about an hour. Happy Spring!!

## 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.

## SHOP SCRIP TODAY!

The Scrip table is set up every week during coffee hour. Stop by after the service for all your gift card needs or just to say "hi"! See what's available for immediate pick-up or place an order for next week.  
**Today is the last day to purchase Target & Walmart gift cards for Wellmore.**  
Please help make this Easter brighter for these families in need. Thanks for your support!

**MISSIONS AND OUTREACH**

**TODAY will be the last day to order Target and Walmart gift cards for Wellmore**  
so the Mission committee can get them delivered in time for Easter.

In the past we provided filled Easter baskets.

However, since Covid our Wellmore Social Worker has requested gift cards.

If you order the cards from Casey she can hold them and give the to  
a Mission member who will deliver them to Wellmore.

This will also benefit FCCCC as the Script program pays back  
a small amount to the church for every gift card we order!

Thanks to Casey for helping us with this and thanks to everyone for supporting  
the Mission & Outreach Projects!

**Why do we put the words to the hymns in the bulletin?**

It's so that those who watch our services online can have them,  
as the bulletin is posted online as well.

It's not meant to suggest that those in the sanctuary shouldn't use the hymnals.

**Pastor:** The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

**Director of Music:** Mary Lou Keefe

**Sexton:** Walt LeGeyt

**Ministers:** Every Member

**Dir. of Faith Formation:** Dr. Hollace Bristol

**Asst. Dir. of Faith Formation:** Karen Needham

**Office Manager:** Kristen DiMattia

**Duty Deacons:** Bev Sealand & Eric Herbek

**Coffee Hour:** Craig & Linda McAllister

**Camera:** Noah Herbek

Sunday 26	Monday 27	Tuesday 28	Wednesday 29	Thursday 30	Friday 31	Saturday 1
<b>Worship 10 am</b> Food Collection Canton HS Study 6-8 pm	<b>Choir 4:45 pm</b> ACA & AI-Anon 7 pm	AA 7 pm		Cub Scouts 6:30-8 pm  <b>Choir 5:30 pm</b>		AA 11 pm

