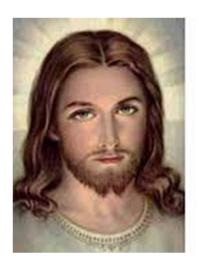


# THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

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

Fifth Sunday in Lent





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

Office 860-693-4581 E-mail: office@cantoncenterchurch.org www.cantoncenterchurch.org \*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.

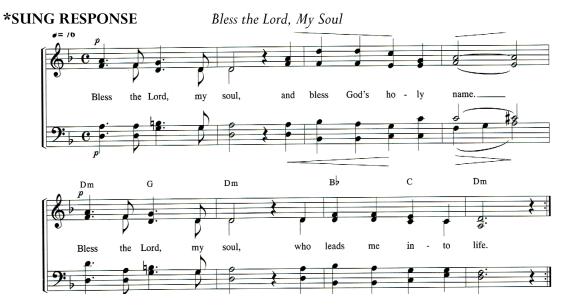
The hopes that lead us onward, the fears that hold us back, Our will to dare great things for God, the courage that we lack, The faith we keep in goodness, our love, as low or pure, On all, the judgment of the cross falls steady, clear and sure. Yet humbly, in our striving, O God, we face its test. We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



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 generosities 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

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

the Mission & Outreach Projects!

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-Faszcza

Dir. of Faith Formation: Dr. Hollace Bristol

Director of Music: Mary Lou Keefe

Asst. Dir. of Faith Formation: Karen Needham

Sexton: Walt LeGeyt Office Manager: Kristen DiMattia

**Ministers**: Every Member

**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
Worship 10 am Food Collection Canton HS Study 6-8 pm		Choir 4:45 pm						Cub Scot 6:30-8 p					
				AA 7 pr	m			Choir 5:30	) pm			AA 11 p	m

## **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.

An Open and Affirming Church

God is still speaking !!! ,,,,,,,,,,,,

Visit our website at www.cantoncenterchurch.org

Listen to recorded Sermons and Music from worship services!

Like us on Facebook

