



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

April 16, 2023 ~ 10:00 a.m.

~ Second Sunday of Easter ~



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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 *Draw Us to You*

arr. Michael Burkhardt

CALL TO WORSHIP

In this season of resurrection, renewal and hope,
may our own spirits feel risen, renewed and hopeful.
May the love of God that surpasses all human understanding
hold us in our questions, doubts and fears.
Today may the abundant gifts of God be evident to us,
awakening us to the blessings of this life.

***HYMN** *Now the Green Blade Rises* Chalice (blue), 230

*Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain.
Love lives again, that with the dead has been;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.*

*In the grave they laid the love by hatred slain,
Thinking that Jesus would not wake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.*

*Christ came forth at Easter, like the risen grain,
Who that for three days in the grave had lain;
Raised from the dead, the risen Christ is seen;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.*

*When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain,
Your touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.*

*GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

God of life and new life,
as we gather in this Easter season,
may its wisdom speak to us and in us,
that we may have faith for our journeys,
courage for our questions,
strength for our trials,
peace in our spirits,
love for each other.

May the Risen One be evident to us,
wherever we are,
calling us to be the beloved community.

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 God, O My Soul



Bless God, O my soul! All with - in me bless God's name!
Bless God, who was, and is, and shall ev - er be the same!

ANTHEM

The Empty Tomb

Pepper Choplin

The Senior Choir, soloists Judy Robinson & Paul Stansel

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS

Dale Picard, of ECAD

(Educated Canines Assisting with Disabilities)

Following this, children may go out to church school.

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

John 20:19-29 Pew Bible pg.883

SERMON

The Opposite of Faith

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. Amen.*

*Prayer of Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

*HYMN *O Holy Spirit, Root of Life* Chalice (blue), 251

*O Holy Spirit, Root of life, Creator, cleanser of all things,
Anoint our wounds, awaken us, with lustrous movement of your wings.*

*Eternal Vigor, Saving One, you free us by your living word,
Becoming flesh to wear our pain, and all creation is restored.*

*O Holy Wisdom, Soaring Power, encompass us with wings unfurled,
And carry us, encircling all, above, below, and through the world.*

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Sevenfold Amen*
The Senior Choir

*POSTLUDE *Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor* William Owen