



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

April 23, 2023 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday of Easter

Care of Creation Sunday



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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 Splendor of God's Glory Bright

Kevin Hildebrand

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, friends, let us give praise to God, whose world this is!

**We praise God's beautiful handiwork – sun and moon,
water and land, trees, grasses, flowers and more.**

Fish, animals, birds, and all our human brothers and sisters –

let all things praise their Maker!

Today and always, let us learn to see God in everything,

and to live in harmony with all of creation.

***HYMN** *All Things Bright and Beautiful* Chalice (blue), 61

Refrain: *All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, in love God made them all.*

*Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors, and made their tiny wings.*

(Refrain)

*The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,
The sunset and the morning that brightens up the sky.*

(Refrain)

*The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one.*

(Refrain)

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

Creator God, Maker of all – Artist, Planter, Weaver, Sower,
all creation is your handiwork!

All life in its seasons, every creature great and small,
all of creation bears your love.

May we be ever more mindful of this world's single web of life,
so that we may grow faithful in our care,

deep in our reverence,

repentant in our neglect,

and committed in our hope for all you have made.

This we ask in Jesus' name and spirit, as we also pray 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**

*For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

We welcome into membership this morning: Rebecca Glinsman and Colin Lussier

Words of Introduction

Remembering Our Mission

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.

Questions of Commitment

Do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Response: I do.

Do you promise to be, as far as you are able, a disciple of Christ, following in the way of the gospel, witnessing to it by a life of love and justice, resisting oppression and evil, embracing all God gives you for a faithful life in the world?

Response: I do.

Do you promise, with God's help, to seek to grow in your Christian faith, to take your place in the Church universal and in this particular congregation, participating in the life and mission, the joys and labors, of the Body of Christ?

Response: I do.

*Welcome

**We welcome you with joy into this community of faith,
as together we share the hopes and labors
of the church of Jesus Christ.
In the power of God's spirit,
may we support, encourage and strengthen each other,
building community, following Jesus, serving all.
Grace, peace and welcome!**

*Prayer

***Sung response** *Blessed Be the Tie that Binds (adapted)*

*Blessed be the tie that binds / our hearts in Christian love;
the sharing of a common life / is like to that above.
Praise God for our fellowship here / praise God for the faith that we share,
praise God for all spirits that turn to the world / with love and peace and care.*

ANTHEM *For the Beauty of the Earth*
The Senior Choir

John Rutter

ALTAR-BUILDING: NATURE'S GIFTS IN OUR MIDST

All will be invited to bring forward items from nature and place them on the Communion table.

FOOD COLLECTION FOR THE CANTON FOOD BANK

Following this, children may go out to church school.

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalm 24:1-2 Pew Bible, p. 436

Job 12:7-10 Pew Bible, p. 400

SERMON “*Creation – The First Bible*”

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

The God of every goodness blesses us abundantly,
giving us gifts to use for the stewardship of creation.
May the offerings we make, in all the forms they take,
help us be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

*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 *For Beauty of Meadows* 696, Chalice Hymnal (blue)

*For beauty of meadows, for grandeur of trees,
For flowers of woodlands, for creatures of seas,
For all you created and gave us to share,
We praise you, Creator, extolling your care.*

*As stewards of beauty received at your hand,
As creatures who hear your most urgent command,
We turn from our wasteful destruction of life,
Confessing our failures, confessing our strife.*

*Teach us once again to be gardeners in peace,
All nature around us is ours but on lease;
Your name we would hallow in all that we do,
Fulfilling our calling, creating with you.*

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Lift Up Your Heads O Gates*
The Senior Choir

David von Kampen

*POSTLUDE *Sing the Beauty of the Earth*

Douglas Wagner

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 this morning are given by Lorinda Miner Murphy Pane
in loving memory of her mother Esther Louise Olson Miner,
her mother Esther Louise Case Olson,
her mother Bessie Ruth Humphrey Case
and her mother Emma Wilcox Bidwell Humphrey.*

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Rebecca Glinsman lives in Winsted and is transferring from the North Congregational Church in New Hartford. She is a stay-at-home Mom, her daughter **Ashlynn** (age 10) has been participating in our church school. Rebecca enjoys a variety of crafts, cooking/baking, and hiking.

Colin Lussier lives in Belchertown, MA, and is a postal worker. Golf and running are among his interests.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH COLLECTION

For the month of April, we will be collecting loose change for Holy Joe's Cafe.

As a military chaplain explains, "Holy Joe's Cafe is a place where chaplains... are able to bring a taste of home to the tired, the anxious, the angry, the lonely and the wounded..." The cups for change can be found in the back of the sanctuary, the hallway table, and the social hall.

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

PLEASE JOIN US NEXT SUNDAY



Sunday 23	Monday 24	Tuesday 25	Wednesday 26	Thursday 27	Friday 28	Saturday 29
Worship 10 am & Celebration New Members Food Collection Canton HS 6-8 pm	Choir 5:00 pm ACA & Al-Anon 7 pm	AA 7 pm		Choir 5:30 pm	Sandwich making for Brian's Angels 11:00 am	<i>Reception Preparation</i> 10-3:00 pm AA 11 pm

