



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

May 14, 2023 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Sixth Sunday of Easter



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

Office 860-693-4581

E-mail: office@cantoncenterchurch.org

www.cantoncenterchurch.org

~ 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

Recuerdos

Francisco Tarrega arr. Kevin McChesney

Cherry Brook Chimes, Handbell Choir with piano and Jon Keefe on guitar

CALL TO WORSHIP

We enter this holy space with hearts open wide

**We seek encounters with the risen Christ
who abides throughout the world.**

So let us feast on the Word of God and leave transformed, with spirits renewed.

Ready to live out God's call, filled with joy and possibility. Amen.

***HYMN**

O' God, Beneath Thy Guiding Hand

Pilgrim (red), 438

*O God, beneath thy guiding hand our exiled
fathers crossed the sea, and they trod the wintry strand,
with prayer and psalm they worshiped thee.*

*Thou heard'st, well pleased, the song, the prayer;
thy blessing came, and still its power shall onward
through all ages bear the memory of that holy hour.*

*Laws, freedom, truth, and faith in God came with those
exiles over the waves, and where their pilgrim feet have trod,
the God they trusted guards their graves. Amen*

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

Gracious and loving God, as we worship today,
may your presence be with us,
filling us with hope and renewed faith.
We ask, O Lord, that you transform us
by your love, renew us with your spirit,
and empower us with your strength.

May we live out our faith with courage and conviction.

In Christ's 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*

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The first staff contains the melody and accompaniment for the lyrics: "Bless God, O my soul! All with - in me bless God's name!". The second staff continues the melody and accompaniment for the lyrics: "Bless God, who was, and is, and shall ev - er be the same!". The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for a church service.

ANTHEM *River in Judea* Marcus/Feldman arr. John Leavitt
Senior Choir

DISTRIBUTION OF PANSY PLANTS

Again this year, the Bristol family is donating pansy plants on Mother's Day. This tradition was started by Ruth Bristol in the late 1940s in memory of her youngest son, 2nd Lieutenant Sterling W. Bristol, Jr., who died when the B-17 bomber that he piloted was shot down by the Germans in WWII. Dan Bristol and his son, Josh Bristol, now do the growing and feel warmly about carrying on this tradition for the fourth generation, in honor of Mother's Day. Thank you to the Bristol family for their generosity in continuing this beautiful tradition.

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

Hollace & Karen

Elizabeth Neumann, Austin Collins, Sylvie Hager & Ashlynn Glinsman

READING FROM SCRIPTURE Acts 2:41-47 *Pew Bible p.886* Luke 15:1-10 *Pew Bible p.850*

SERMON *Home Economics*

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Gracious God, make us aware of every gift that comes from your hand.
Create in us the constant desire to give of ourselves, because of your great gifts to us.
And bless what we bring before you now, that it may be a sign of our dedication to you and your work in us and around us. Amen.

***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** *Bread of the World, in Mercy Broken*

Pilgrim (red), 282

*Bread of the world, in mercy broken,
Wine of the soul, in mercy shed,
By whom the words of life were spoken,
And in whose death our sins are dead,
Look on the heart by sorrow broken,
Look on the tears by sinners shed,
And be thy feast to us the token,
That by thy grace our souls are fed. Amen*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be served in the pews; all are welcome to participate. As the elements are passed, please wait until all have been served and all will partake together. Gluten-free bread is in the center of each plate. The juice trays hold non-alcoholic grape juice, with a few cups of water also available on each.

Invitation

As we come to Christ's table, we remember that we are one body,
that God's love makes us one,

**whoever we are, whatever our journey,
whether we have been here many times before or never before.**

We remember that we are gathered in the spirit of the Risen Christ,
who sees not our differences but our oneness.

**As the many grains of wheat become the one loaf
and the many grapes become the one cup,
so do we become the one Body of Christ.**

Let this sacrament renew us in faith, hope and love,

binding us in covenant with God and with all others.

Prayer of Preparation

Recalling the Story: The Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, Holy One, for the gifts of your table,
reminders of all that strengthens us for faithful life.
As we go out into the world to live the gospel,
we pray that today and tomorrow
we might learn to see the world with Christ's eyes
and love the world with Christ's heart. Amen.

***HYMN** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* Pilgrim (red), 8

*Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of Glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.*

*All the works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect they rays,
Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowering fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.*

*Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
Well spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, All who live in love are thine;
Teach us ho wo love each other, lift us to the joy divine.*

*Mortals, join the happy chorus, which the morning stars began;
Father love is reigning o'er us, brother love binds man to man
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life. Amen.*

*BENEDICTION

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Sevenfold Amen*
Senior Choir

***POSTLUDE** *Prayer* Englebert Humperdinck arr. Linker/McFadden

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 Jim & Gina Magennis
in loving memory of their mothers, Claudette Magennis and Evelia Guitierrez.*

*We welcome this morning as our guest pastor, the Rev. Terry Schmitt,
who was formerly the Executive Director of the CT Council for Interreligious Understanding
and who has served as pastor and interim pastor for several CT churches.
Rev. Schmitt and his family live in West Hartford.*

Next Sunday ~ May 21

Moment for Missions

Catherine Howe from Covenant to Care will be our guest for the Moment for Missions

Second Hour

Second Hour will take place after the service to discuss the pastoral search and any concerns.

The Strawberry Festival - This is a fun, busy event with many hands needed to make it successful. We need to fill the positions required in order to hold the festival on Father's Day, June 18. The festival would be SHORTCAKE - TAKE OUT ONLY. We have fewer slots to fill but hullers and bakers are required. The decision whether the festival can be HELD or NOT depends on how many positions are filled by Sunday, May 28 to allow time to advertise the event. Church attendance has increased but is still very light and we cannot commit to holding the festival if we don't have the people to work. Please respond by signing up at church or by calling Donna Hammond at 860-693-8676 or 860-882-8375 by May 28.

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

Yard Goats Game- We are taking ticket reservations for a **Yard Goats Game on June 9th at 7:10 pm**. Tickets are priced at \$10.00 each with a limit of 6 tickets per family. Check your calendar and hope you can make it!

Missions & Outreach

Hands of Grace - For the month of May we will be collecting toiletries and 64 oz. bottles of juice for Hands of Grace, an outreach of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in New Hartford. Hands of Grace offers help with food, clothing and household goods.

Garden Plots - If you are interested in signing up for one of our garden plots to benefit The Canton Food Bank, please see Art Mauger or email at: amauger8819@gmail.com

Brian's Angels - Please see the sign up on the kitchen door if you would like to help make sandwiches for Brian's Angels (Homeless Outreach in Bristol) **this Friday, May 19th at 11:00 a.m.**

Ministers: Every Member

Director of Music: Mary Lou Keefe

Sexton: Walt LeGeyt

Dir. of Faith Formation: Dr. Hollace Bristol

Asst. Dir. of Faith Formation: Karen Needham

Office Manager: Kristen DiMattia

Duty Deacons: Kristin Oswald & Tim Lundgren

Coffee Hour: Trustees

Camera: Craig McAllister

Sunday 14	Monday 15	Tuesday 16	Wednesday 17	Thursday 18	Friday 19	Saturday 20
Worship & Communion 10:00 am	Choir 5 pm ACA & AI-Anon 7 pm	AA 7 pm			Missions making sandwiches 11 am	Memorial 10 am M. Wilson AA 11 pm

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

Visit our website at www.cantoncenterchurch.org

Listen to recorded [Sermons](#) and [Music](#) from worship services!

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