



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

May 28, 2023 ~ 10:00 a.m.

~ Pentecost Sunday ~



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

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 *Set Your Hearts on the Higher Gifts*

Steven Warner

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, friends, let us give praise to God
 whose peace-giving Spirit dwells among us!
We praise Holy Wisdom,
 for guiding us to seek God in our midst.
We praise the Holy Spirit, the breath of the power of God,
 for revealing God's glorious fire.
Let us praise God's steadfast love
 which draws us near and makes all things new!

***HYMN** *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart*

Hymnal (blue), 265

*Spirit of God, descend up on my heart; wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art, and make me love thee as I ought to love.*

*I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies, no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
No angel visitant, no opening skies, but take the dimness of my soul away.*

*Teach me to feel that thou art always nigh; teach me the struggles of the soul to bear:
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh; teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.*

*Teach me to love thee as thine angels love, one holy passion filling all of my frame;
The baptism of the heaven descended Dove. My heart an altar, and thy love the flame.*

*GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

God, whose Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words,
God, who searches our hearts,
God, who knows what is the mind of the Spirit,
We know that all things work together for good for those who love God,
who are called according to God's purpose.
Perplexing, Pentecostal God,
infuse us with your Spirit, urging us to vision and dream.
May the gift of your presence find voice in our lives,
and may the flame of your love
light an unquenchable fire of compassion and justice.
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

Bless God, O My Soul

The image shows two staves of musical notation for a sung response. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single line, and the lyrics are placed below it. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The lyrics are: "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 *Like an Eagle*

Carl Strommen

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:1-4

Pew Bible p. 885

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

Pew Bible p. 933

John 20:19-23

Pew Bible p. 883

SERMON *Spirit, Keeper of the Heart's Flame*

MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBRANCE

*HYMN *For the Fruit of All Creation* Chalice (blue), 714

*For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to god; for good gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God; For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe keeping, thanks be to God.*

In the just reward of labor, God's will is done; in the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done; in our world wide task of caring for the hungry and despairing, in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvest of the Spirit, thanks be to God; For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God; for the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us, most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

The God of Life blesses us, revealing the gifts of God's Spirit of Truth in the world.
May God guide these offerings to flow where they are needed
Like God's Spirit hovering over the waters at Creation.

***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** *The Gift of Love* Chalice (blue), 526

*Through I may speak with bravest fire, and have the fight to all inspire,
And have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.*

*Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
But not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.*

*Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed*

***BENEDICTION**

May God's Holy Spirit light a fire within you, And may the flames of love renew your hearts,
To go out into the world singing for peace.

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Amen*

***POSTLUDE** *Abbot's Leigh*

Cyril V. Taylor