



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

May 7, 2023 ~ 10:00 a.m.

~ Fifth 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 *If My People Will Pray*

Jimmy Owens

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather together for worship,
 Different lives, different paths, different stories,
All children of the One God,
 Who created us out of abundant love.

From different lives, different paths, different stories,
 We come together to follow the Son of God,
Jesus, our brother, our teacher, our friend,
 Who requires that we love one another as God loves us.

Let us open ourselves to God this day,
 Each of us from our different lives, different paths, different stories,
That we may come together as people of God,
 United in our commitment to love,
 In the spirit and name of Jesus.

***HYMN** *Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather*

Chalice (blue), 278

*Here, O Lord, your servants gather, hand we link with hand;
looking toward our Savior's cross, joined in love we stand.
As we seek the realm of God, we unite to pray:
Jesus, Savior, guide our steps for you are the way.*

*Many are the tongues we speak, scattered are the lands;
yet our hearts are one in God, one in love's demands.
E'en in darkness hope appears, calling age and youth;
Jesus, Teacher, swell with us, for you are the truth.*

*Nature's secrets open wide, changes never cease;
where, O where, can weary souls find the source of peace?
Unto all those sore distressed, torn by endless strife,
Jesus, Healer, bring your balm, for you are the life.*

*Grant, O God, an age renewed, filled with deathless love;
help us as we work and pray. Send us from above
truth and courage, faith and power needed in our strife:
Jesus, Master, be our way, be our truth our life.*

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

Loving Spirit, we thank you for this day.
As we gather together, during our time of holy transition,
We ask you to move within us, among us, and around us.

God, guide our steps.
Light our way.
Help us to trust your infinite grace
As we move through this next journey together.

Gather us together in love and in peace,
As we work to serve you,
And as we strive to follow Jesus,
Who shows us the Way.

This we ask in Christ's 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 in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The first staff contains the melody and accompaniment for the first line of the response: "Bless God, O my soul! All with - in me bless God's name!". The second staff contains the melody and accompaniment for the second line: "Bless God, who was, and is, and shall ev - er be the same!". The lyrics are written below the notes.

SERMON *Holy Transitions***DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS**

As a community of faith, let us share God's abundance. May we bring our many offerings of time, of talent, and of financial support, in a spirit of gratitude for all we have been given. May we open our hearts to how we might serve God's Kingdom here on earth.

***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** *I Love to Tell the Story* Chalice (blue), 480 vs. 1 & 3

*I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.
I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.*

*I love to tell the story; for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story, that I have loved so long.
I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.*

BENEDICTION**BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Sevenfold Amen****POSTLUDE** *Andante Maestoso* *Jupiter* (From The Planets) Gustav Holst arr. Kevin McChesney