



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

June 11, 2023 ~ 10:00 a.m.



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

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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 *O Splendor of God's Glory Bright* arr. Kevin Hildebrand

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us gather here to renew our hearts in God's love.

We come here in need of refreshment in the deepest senses.

Let us gather to open our minds to God's guidance for our lives.

We accept the challenge to be open to changing our lives in order to live God's good.

Let us be ready to view the world in new and hopeful ways.

We join together to become better versions of God's people, and stronger advocates for God's love for all. Amen

***HYMN** *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!* Chalice (blue), 4

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty; God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

*Holy, Holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, God ever living, through eternity.*

*Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee, though the sinful human eye thy glory may not see;
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee, perfect in power, in love, and purity.*

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and see;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty; God in three persons, blessed Trinity! Amen.*

*GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gracious and loving God, we ask that you would fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we might always be alive in your love, empowered by your hope, and filled with the purposes you have for us. Help us be the body of Christ for the good of the world around us, within us, and among us.

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 melody is written on a treble clef staff, and the accompaniment is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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 *Kyrie*
Senior Choir

John Leavitt

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS

Hands of Grace, Linda McAllister

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Romans 4:13-16a *Pew Bible p.916*

2 Corinthians 4:7-16 *Pew Bible p.939*

SERMON *Empowering Thanks*

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Gracious God, you have given us blessings more than we can count and resources that are larger than we can manage. It is not simply our duty to return these gifts to you, but it is our joy as well. Accept these gifts as one of many ways in which we give thanks to you and share your blessings throughout our world. Amen.

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** *All Creatures of our God and King* Chalice (blue), 22

*All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing: Alleluia, Alleluia!
O burning sun with golden beam, O silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*O rushing wind with voice so strong, you clouds that sail in heaven along, O praise God, Alleluia!
O rising mourning in praise rejoice, you lights of evening find a voice,
O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*O flowing water, pure and clear, make music for your God to hear, Alleluia, Alleluia!
O blazing fire who lights the night, providing warmth, enhancing sight,
O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*And all forgiven tender hearts, forgiving others, take your part, sing praises, Alleluia!
You who long pain and sorrow bear, Praise God who knows your every care.
O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Amen*

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 Cora Mutch.

*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.*

SCRIP

There is no Scrip table in coffee hour today. If you'd like to place an order or purchase a card from inventory, please call or email Casey (860-693-0134 or c.levine@comcast.net). I'll see you next week!

MISSIONS

The June and July Missions Box collection will be
backpacks and school supplies for the children served by Wellmore.

Some of the suggested items for donation are
pencils, pens, markers (non-permanent), colored pencils, crayons, binders, notebook paper, spiral notebooks, colorful folders & pocket folders, glue sticks, blunt scissors, tape, rulers...

Any supplies a child would need to have a good start and be successful in school.

SUMMER SERVICES

We will be sharing services in **July & August** with the Canton Community Baptist Church.

We will host in July, they will host in August on Sundays at **10:00 a.m.**

Please save the date and sign up to help make this event successful.

This is a Wider Church event and we are all members of Wider Church. Many hands make light work!
If you have any questions, please call Donna Hammond: 860-693-8676 or 860-882-8375.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL



SUNDAY ~ JUNE 18
3:00 ~ 7:00 p.m.

The First Congregational Church
184 Cherry Brook Road, Canton Center



**Come enjoy hot dogs/hamburgers and
fresh strawberry shortcakes
with real whipped cream!**

Eat in or take out.

Please see volunteer sign up sheets on the kitchen door.
For more information call 860-693-4581

<p>Ministers: Every Member Director of Music: Mary Lou Keefe Sexton: Walt LeGeyt</p>	<p>Dir. of Faith Formation: Dr. Hollace Bristol Asst. Dir. of Faith Formation: Karen Needham Office Manager: Kristen DiMattia</p>
<p>Duty Deacons: Cora Mutch & Phil Doyle Coffee Hour: Carol Orlando Trustees: Bob Howson & Sue Lampros</p>	

Sunday	11	Monday	12	Tuesday	13	Wednesday	14	Thursday	15	Friday	16	Saturday	17
<p>Worship & Communion 10:00 am <i>Moment for Missions</i></p>		<p>Sr. Choir 5 pm Trustees 7 pm ACA & Al-Anon 7 pm</p>			<p>AA 7 pm</p>	<p>Council Meeting 7 pm</p>						<p>AA 11 pm</p>	

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

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

Visit our website at www.cantoncenterchurch.org

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

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