

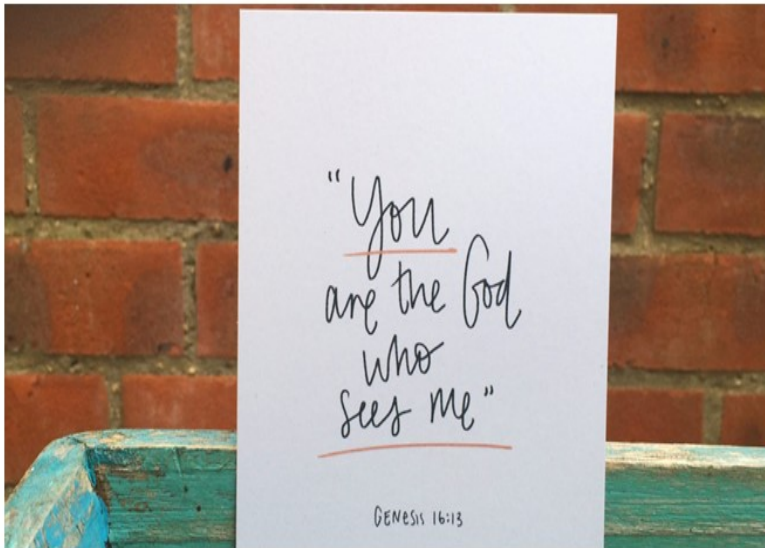


THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

June 18, 2023 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Juneteenth Recognition



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~ 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 *Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You*

Jay Althouse

CALL TO WORSHIP

Hear, O people of God, and declare that the Lord is our God.

**Our Lord is indeed God, the One who is Creator of heaven and earth
and all who dwell in it.**

We gather in response and gratitude to God's invitation and love for us.

**We've come to worship the God who created all humanity
in God's image and likeness, equal in dignity and worthy of regard and care.**

Let us worship our great God together.

**To the God of justice, love, and peace
we lift up our hearts and minds and voices.**

For even in the midst of injustice and oppression, this is still the day that the Lord has made.

And we shall rejoice and be glad in it.

***HYMN** *Community of Christ* Chalice (blue), 655

*Community of Christ, who make the cross your own, live out your creed and risk your life
for God alone: the God who wears your face, to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race and every song.*

*Community of Christ, look past the church's door and see the refugee, the hungry, and the poor.
Take hands with the oppressed, the jobless in your street, take towel and water,
that you wash your neighbor's feet.*

*Community of Christ, through whom the word must sound --cry out for justice and for peace
the whole world round: disarm the powers that war and all that can destroy,
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish into joy.*

*When menace melts away, so shall God's will be done, the climate of the world be peace
and Christ its sun; our currency be love and kindness our law,
our food and faith be shared as one for evermore.*

*GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Loving and Liberating God, You who desire the freedom and flourishing of all creation, manifest yourself among us as we worship You today. On this observance of the emancipation of enslaved African people in America, prepare our hearts to hear and receive what your Spirit will say to us through the Word and prayers, the sermon and song. Clarify our vision so that we may recognize and equally regard the humanity of all people. Reorient our hearts and our minds so that after we depart from this service we may continue your ministry of justice, liberation, and love to and for all in this country and the world.

We ask this in the name of the One who taught us to pray, saying 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

Spirit of the Living God

Chalice (blue) 259

*Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.*

RECOGNITION OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

ANTHEM *We Are Singing for the Lord is our Light* Arr. Hal Hopson trad. Zulu song Psalm 27:1-4

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Genesis 16:1-13 *Pew Bible pg. 11* Genesis 21:8-10 *Pew Bible pg. 14*

SERMON *The God Who Sees* Rev. David Figliuzzi

ANTHEM *Bring, O Morn, Thy Music* William Gannett arr. Howard Helvey

***Doxology** (please stand)

*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.*

***DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS**

O God who gathers more, and still more, people to your table —
**a table that is not contained by our one church, but extends
across varied worship spaces, across diverse cultures and communities —**
bless the gifts that each of us brings today.
May they strengthen bodies and nourish spirits, and be used for your glory.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

***HYMN** *Bring Many Names* Chalice (blue), 10

*Bring many names, beautiful and good, celebrate, in parable and story,
holiness in glory, living, loving God. Hail and Hosanna! Bring many names!*

*Strong mother God, working night and day, planning all the wonders of creation,
setting each equation, genius at play: Hail and Hosanna, strong mother God!*

*Warm father God, hugging every child, feeling all the strains of human living,
caring and forgiving till we're reconciled: Hail and Hosanna, warm father God!*

*Old, aching God, grey with endless care, calmly piercing evil's new disguises,
glad of good surprises, wiser than despair: Hail and Hosanna, old, aching God!*

*Young, growing God, eager, on the move, saying no to falsehood and unkindness,
crying out for justice, giving all you have: Hail and Hosanna, young, growing God!*

*Great, living God, never fully known, joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
closer yet than breathing, everlasting home: Hail and Hosanna, great, living God!*

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Amen*

***POSTLUDE** *Prelude in Classic Style*

Gordon Young