



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

June 25, 2023 ~ 10:00 a.m.

**THE 4TH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

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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

CALL TO WORSHIP

We worship the God who inhabits our world and indwells our lives.

We need not look up to find God, we need only to look around:

within ourselves, beyond ourselves, into the eyes of another.

We need not listen for a distant thunder to find God, we need only listen to the music of life,

the words of children, the questions of the curious, the rhythm of a heartbeat.

We worship the God who inhabits our world and who indwells our lives.

***HYMN** *God of Grace and God of Glory*

Chalice (blue), 464

God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;

*crown thine ancient church's story; **Bring its bud to glorious flower.***

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail thy ways!

From the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts to faith and praise.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to thy control; shame our wanton,

selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,

lest we miss thy righteous goal, lest we miss thy righteous goal.

Set our feet on lofty places; fill our lives that we may be strengthened

with all Christ like graces pledged to set all captives free.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we fail our call from thee, lest we fail our call from thee.

Save us from week resignation to the evils we deplore;

let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.

*GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

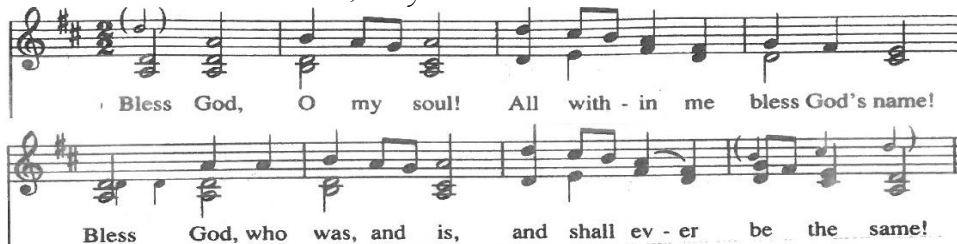
Grant us this day, O God, not to be overtaken
by anxious thoughts that make us feel you are not near.
Help us know that you are. Help us feel your real presence.
Help us to live out that presence.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, who has taught us to pray:

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



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

The Holy City
Jerry Alonzy— soloist

Weatherly/Adams

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Romans 6:1b-11 *Pew Bible* pg. 917

Matthew 10:24-39 *Pew Bible* pg. 791

SERMON

No Plastic Jesus

Rev. Dr. Robert R. LaRochelle

HYMN

Are Ye Able?

Chalice (blue) 621

*Are ye able, said the Master, to be crucified with me?
Yea, the sturdy dreamers answered, to the death we follow thee.*

*Refrain: Lord, we are able. Our spirits are thine.
Remold them, make us, like thee, divine.
Thy guiding radiance above us shall be a
beacon to God, to love and loyalty.*

*Are ye able to remember, when a thief lifts up his eyes,
that his pardoned soul is worthy of a place in paradise?*

(Refrain)

*Are ye able when the shadows close around you with the sod,
to believe that spirit triumphs, to commend your soul to God?*

(Refrain)

*Are ye able? Still the Master whispers down eternity,
and heroic spirits answer now, as then in Galilee.*

(Refrain)

***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**

May these gifts we dedicate, O God, be signs of your creative hand in all the places where there is need. Bless the work of your people! We ask this in the name of the one who is present within and among us! In the name of Jesus and in deep and profound gratitude, we offer you these gifts. Amen+

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

***HYMN** *The Church of Christ in Every Age*

Chalice (blue), 475

*The church of Christ in every age, be set by change but Spirit led,
must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.*

*Across the world, across the street, the victims of injustice cry for
shelter and for bread to eat, and never live until they die.*

*Then let the servant church arise, a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice, and clothed in Christ's humanity.*

*For Christ alone, whose blood was shed, can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread and feed the starving multitude.*

*We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord:
to care for all, without reserve, and spread Christ's liberating word.*

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Amen*

***POSTLUDE** *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

(Wolvercote) Wm. Ferguson