



**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
CANTON CENTER, CT**

&

THE CANTON COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

July 2, 2023 ~ Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m. In Person & Live Streamed



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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 of the church.*

PRELUDE *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace* Sebastian Temple based on Prayer of St. Francis

CALL TO WORSHIP

God, You call us together in worship.

We come with open minds and open hearts.

God, You created us out of your Abundance.

We come to offer our thanks.

God, you speak to us still today.

We come to listen to your Word.

God, in Jesus, you teach us how to love.

We come to learn, with humble hearts.

***HYMN** *As Grain on Scattered Hillsides* Chalice (blue), 491 vs. 1, 2, 4

As grain on scattered hillsides, when gathered, makes one bread,

God, Gather all your people as one in Christ our head.

We come from many places and we are not the same,

Yet your strong love has called us to meet in Jesus' name.

A Grain of wheat is fruitless until in earth it lies;

Then, dying to its old life, it bears and multiplies.

So may we die to hatred, to all our hurtful ways,

Reborn to common living, to love, to work, to praise.

O Christ, our risen Savior; O Spirit, holy dove,

Come now and move among us; make us a sign of love.

Come, knead and blend each texture with strong and gentle hands,

That we may be one body, on loaf in many lands.

*GATHERING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Merciful God, God of abundant, overflowing, unending love.
Bring us into your holy presence.

We rejoice in You, our Creator.
We lift our voices in song and in prayer,
As we praise your holy name.


Today we celebrate this nation we call home.
As we also remember that you are God of all nations, all peoples,
all time and space.

Your wide love knows no boundaries.
Let us learn from your abundance.
Let us live as followers of Your Son, Jesus.

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 lyrics: "Bless God, O my soul! All with - in me bless God's name!". The second staff continues 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.

ANTHEM *Pie Jesu* Andrew Lloyd Webber from Requiem
Judy Robinson & Mary Lou Keefe duet

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 13:1-2 *Pew Bible pg. 979* Matthew 10:40-42 *Pew Bible pg. 791*

SERMON *Holy Welcome*

Ali Hager

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

*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

*Holy God of abundance,
Bless our gifts that we offer in service to your Kingdom,
May our offerings bring life and peace to those in need,
And may we, in turn, find blessing through our act of giving. Amen*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

*HYMN *For the Healing of the Nations* Chalice (blue), 668

*For the healing of the nations, God, we pray with one accord;
For a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;
To a life of love in action help us raise and pledge our word,
Help us rise and pledge our word.*

*Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,
That, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase,
Fear will die and hope increase.*

*All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned;
Pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span,
May we hallow life's brief span.*

*You, Creator God, have written your great name on human kind;
For our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind,
That by our response and service earth its destiny may find,
Earth its destiny may find.*

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Amen*

*POSTLUDE *All Good Gifts* (We Plow the Fields and Scatter) Stephen Schwartz from Godspell