



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

&

THE CANTON COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

July 16, 2023 ~ Seventh 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

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 of the church.

PRELUDE *Only God*

Mary McDonald

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** *Gather Us In* Chalice (blue), 284

Here in this place new light is streaming, Now is the darkness vanished away

See in this space our fears and our dreamings, Brought here to you in the light of this day

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, Gather us in, the blind and the lame

Call to us now and we shall awaken, We shall arise at the sound of our name

We are the young, our lives are a mystery, We are the old who yearn for your face

We have been sung throughout all of history, Called to be light to the whole human race

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty, Gather us in, the proud and the strong

Give us a heart so meek and so lowly, Give us the courage to enter the song

Here we will take the wine and the water, Here we will take the bread of new birth

Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, Call us anew to be salt for the earth

Give us to drink the wine of compassion, Give us to eat the bread that is you

Nourish us well and teach us to fashion, Lives that are holy and hearts that are true

*Not in the dark of buildings confining, Not in some heaven light years away
But here in this place the new light is shining, Now is the kingdom, now is the day
Gather us in and hold us forever, Gather us in and make us your own
Gather us in, all peoples together, Fire of love in our flesh and our bones*

***GATHERING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Still-Speaking God- You sow new seeds in our world, and call us to harvest them when the time is right. You fill our world with new melodies, and ask us to sing them to change the air around us. You call us to use new wineskins for our wine. You ask us to try new delicacies, travel to new lands, and listen to the stories of our new neighbors. Let us embrace the Spirit of newness surrounding us, listening to your transforming call in our lives.

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** *Sweet Hour of Prayer* Chalice #570

*Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! that calls me from a world of care,
and bids me at my Father's throne make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief,
and oft escaped the tempter's snare by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!*

*Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! the joys I feel, the bliss I share
of those whose anxious spirits burn with strong desires for thy return!
With such I hasten to the place where God my Savior shows his face,
and gladly take my station there, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!*

*Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! thy wings shall my petition bear
to him whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since he bids me seek his face, believe his word, and trust his grace,
I'll cast on him my every care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!*

ANTHEM *The Prayer* Carole Bayer Sager/David Foster
Jerry Alonzy & Judy Robinson - duet

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE Acts 10:9-23 *Pew Bible pg. 894*

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.

*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 *Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race* Chalice (blue), 485

*Diverse in culture, nation, race, we come together by Your grace.
God, let us be a meeting ground where hope and healing love are found.*

*God, let us be a bridge of care connecting people everywhere.
Help us confront all fear and hate and lust for power that separate.*

*When chasms widen, storms arise, O Holy Spirit, make us wise.
Let our resolve, like steel, be strong to stand with those who suffer wrong.*

*God, let us be a table spread with gifts of love and broken bread,
where all find welcome, grace attends, and enemies arise as friends.*

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Amen*

*POSTLUDE *Lord, Above All other Treasures*

J.S. Bach arr. Roberta Bitgood