



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

&

THE CANTON COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

July 30, 2023 ~ Ninth 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 Lord, You have searched me and known me Psalm 139 arr. Allen Pote

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 105)

Give thanks to the Lord; call on God's name; Make known God's deeds among the peoples.
Sing to God, sing praises Tell of all God's wonderful works. Glory in God's holy name;

Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

The reign of God is for all of us, but we come here to this space full of our own burdens.
Let us confess our sins before our loving God.

Holy God, we try to keep you close to us, but in the process, we push our neighbors away. We have been distracted in a distracting world and withheld love from each other and from you. Have mercy on us, O God. In your compassion, cleanse and release us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Amen.

Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died and who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who intercedes for us. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

***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 weak 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 & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Eternal God, you have made us in your image. Let our hearts, minds and spirits be turned to you in this time so that the Holy Spirit may bring us closer to the Word. Amen.

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 for a sung response. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/2 time signature. The melody is written on a single line, and the lyrics are placed below it. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The lyrics are: "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 *His Eye is on the Sparrow* Charles Gabriel arr. Mark Hayes

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 *Pew Bible pg. 795*
Romans 8:26-39 *Pew Bible pg. 919*

SERMON *Are We There Yet* Rev. Dr. Robert R. LaRochelle

***HYMN** *When Morning Gilds the Skies* Chalice (blue), 100

*When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries, may Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer to Jesus I repair; may Jesus Christ be praised.*

*Discordant human kind, in this your concord find, may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let all the earth around ring joyous with the sound, may Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Sing, suns and stars of space, sing, all that see his face; may Jesus Christ be praised!
God's whole creation o'er both now and evermore: may Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine; may Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this the eternal song, through all the ages long; may Jesus Christ be praised!*

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 —

bles the gifts that each of us brings today.

May they strengthen bodies and nourish spirits,
and be used for your glory.

*Prayer of Dedication

***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.*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

***HYMN** *Here I Am, Lord* Chalice (blue), 452

*I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?*

*Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart, in my heart.*

*I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them, they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?*

*I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to the. Whom shall I send?*

*BENEDICTION

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Amen*

***POSTLUDE** *And Can It Be*

Charles Wesley arr. Dan Forrest