



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

**&**

**THE CANTON COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH**

**July 9, 2023 ~ Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

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



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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

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*\*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**    *One God*

Erwin Drake/James Shirl    arr. Roy Ringwald

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Dear Friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God.  
Whoever loves is a child of God and knows God.

**Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.**

God has showed you, O People, what is good; and what does the Holy One require of you?

**We are called to learn how to love one more person a day.**

**We are called to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with God.**

**\*HYMN**    *The God of Abraham Praise*

Chalice (blue), 24

*The God of Abraham praise. All praised be the Name,  
who was, and is, and is to be, is still the same;  
The one eternal God, ere all that now appears, the First,  
the Last, beyond all thought through timeless years!*

*God's spirit flowing free, high surging where it will  
in prophet's word it spoke of old - is speaking still.  
Established is God's law, and changeless it shall stand,  
deep writ up on the heart, on sea or land.*

*God has eternal life implanted in the soul.  
God's love shall be our strength and stay while ages roll.  
Praise to the living God! All praised be the Name,  
Who was, and is, and is to be, is still the same!*

## \*GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

God of all mercy, we confess before you and each other  
that we have been lukewarm in our faithfulness to you.  
We look the other way when you cry out to us  
in the sufferings of our brothers and sisters in need.  
We are sincerely sorry for our sins, both those we  
commit deliberately and those that we allow to over take us.  
We ask your forgiveness and pray for strength  
that we may follow in your way and love all your people  
with that perfect love which casts out all fear,  
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

Let us pray together as we taught to say.

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 2/4 time signature. The melody is written on the upper line, and the bass line is on the lower line. The lyrics are: "Bless God, O my soul! All with - in me bless God's name!". The second staff continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "Bless God, who was, and is, and shall ev - er be the same!". The music ends with a double bar line.

**ANTHEM** *Just Over in the Glory Land*  
Jim Todd - Soloist

James Acuff/Ernest Dean

**READING FROM SCRIPTURE** Genesis 12:1-9

Pew Bible p.8

**SERMON** *Communion and Connection*

## DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

All good gifts around us come from you, O God.  
You have given us life and new life in Christ.  
As you have given us gifts, so we offer our gifts that we may be gifts  
to one another, even as Jesus so taught and lived. Amen.

### **\*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**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

### **\*HYMN**     *Fairest Lord Jesus*     Chalice (blue), 97

*Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature, O thou of god to earth come down;  
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.*

*Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the blooming garb of Spring:  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.*

*Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling, starry hosts:  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer, than all the angels heaven can boast.*

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Communion will be served in the pews; all are welcome to participate. As the elements are passed, please  
Wait until all have been served and all will partake together. Gluten-free bread is in the center of each plate.  
The juice trays hold non-alcoholic grape juice, with a few cups of water also available on each.*

### **Invitation**

As we come to Christ's table, we remember that we are one body,  
that God's love makes us one,

**whoever we are, whatever our journey,  
whether we have been here many times before or never before.**

We remember that we are gathered in the spirit of the Risen Christ,  
who sees not our differences but our oneness.

**As the many grains of wheat become the one loaf  
and the many grapes become the one cup,  
so do we become the one Body of Christ.**

Let this sacrament renew us in faith, hope and love,

**binding us in covenant with God and with all others.**

### **Prayer of Preparation**

#### **Recalling the Story: The Words of Institution**

#### **Sharing the Bread and the Cup**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**We give thanks to you, Holy One, for the gifts of your table,  
reminders of all that strengthens us for faithful life.**

**As we go out into the world to live the gospel,  
we pray that today and tomorrow  
we might learn to see the world with Christ's eyes  
and love the world with Christ's heart. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**      *Blessed Be the Tie That Binds*                      Pilgrim (red), 272

*Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love:  
The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.*

*Before our Father's throne, We pour our ardent prayers:  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our comforts and our cares.*

*We share each other's woes, Each other's burdens bear,  
And often for each other flows The sympathizing tear.*

*When we are called to part It gives us inward pain,  
But we shall still be joined in heart, And hope to meet again. Amen*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**      *Amen*

**\*POSTLUDE**      *Creation Will Be at Peace*

J. Paul Williams/Anna Laura Page

## WELCOME

We're glad you've joined us for worship today.  
Please know that whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!  
If you are visiting today, please help us get to know you better by filling out  
one of the visitor cards in the pews and placing it in the offering plate.  
Questions? Please feel free to ask the pastor, or call the church office during the week.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The flowers today are given by Marilyn Larose in loving memory of  
her husband, Prosper,  
and her parents, Marion and Bob Ellison.*

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*We warmly welcome the congregation of  
The Canton Community Baptist Church,  
joining us for services this month.*

## We welcome Rev. Linda Huff

I have lived in Newington CT for the last 10 months with my two housemates Cynthia and Tashi and my dog Fancy in a historic house built in 1899. This represents a major change in my life, until recently I lived in Bloomfield. I call this period of my life: "My Year of Transition". I have a long-standing career of ordained pastor UCC serving churches in Maine and Connecticut in a varied of position, including Intentional Interims. The last 14 years I was a Hospice Bereavement Coordinator for Masonicare in East Hartford. I retired in November of 2022 and sold my house in Bloomfield 3 months later. The hospice work and the preaching overlapped at certain times. I am working on starting a Life Coaching Business this summer. My long-term goal is to return to Maine in Mid-2024.

## MISSIONS

The July Missions Box collection will be  
**backpacks and school supplies for the children served by Wellmore.**

Some of the suggested items for donation are  
***pencils, pens, markers (non-permanent), colored pencils, crayons, binders, notebook paper, spiral notebooks, colorful folders & pocket folders, glue sticks, blunt scissors, tape, rulers...***

Any supplies a child would need to have a good start and be successful in school.



**SUMMER SERVICES WITH CANTON COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH**

We will be sharing services in July & August with the Canton Community Baptist Church.  
**We will host in July, they will host in August on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.**

**Worship Leader:** Rev. Linda Huff  
**Director of Music:** Mary Lou Keefe  
**Sexton:** Walt LeGeyt  
**Dir. of Faith Formation:** Dr. Hollace Bristol  
**Asst. Dir. of Faith Formation:** Karen Needham  
**Ministers:** Every Member  
**Office Manager:** Kristen DiMattia

**Duty Deacons:** Bev Sealand & Eric Herbek  
**Trustees:** Don Scott & Jen Herbek  
**Camera:** Hugh Anderson  
**Coffee Hour:** Bev Sealand

Sunday 9	Monday 10	Tuesday 11	Wednesday 12	Thursday 13	Friday 14	Saturday 15
<b>Worship &amp; Communion 10:00 am</b>	<b>Trustees 7 pm</b> ACA & Al-Anon 7 pm	AA 7 pm				AA 11 pm

