



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

September 17, 2023 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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, please be in the front pews at the start of the announcements period. **Offerings and prayer request** on the yellow prayer request cards found in the pews may be placed in the offering plate at the time of the offering or in the designated boxes on the back table.*

PRELUDE *As Torrents in Summer*

Elgar

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Ps. 98)

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**Let us sing to the Lord, praising His Holy name,
singing with shouts of joy.**

Yes, with shouts of joy proclaiming God's marvelous deeds among *all* people.

**We will worship the Lord in the splendor of His Holiness,
for God is our source of hope, peace, and joy!**

Say among the multitudes, "The Lord reigns."
The heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad,
let the sea resound and all the world be filled with joy,
for the Lord our God is One!

**Let the fields be jubilant and everything in them.
Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy!!
Let us join in joyful worship!**

***HYMN** *Come, Thou Almighty King*

Pilgrim (red) 246


*GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, help us to rest in Your Spirit of bliss. Place a smile on our lips, a beautiful memory in our mind and may our voices exclaim Your magnificence and splendor. May we wake each day with *hope*, find *peacefulness* as we engage in our daily lives and witness the beauty of *joy* in our world, within our own beings and in all others. Fill our days in the joyful living of Christ Jesus our Lord. 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



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!

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Fairest Lord Jesus*
Senior Choir

Derek Hakes

Following this, children may go to church school

*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.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

Almighty God, we come before You today with our offerings and pray that You would use these gifts to help our church grow in ways to serve others and be a beacon of light to the marginalized as we extend our serving outside the walls of this sanctuary to the wider community and world. May we be Your hands and feet in the world being generous with our time, our talents, and our resources, always mindful of the needs of others, in Jesus' name, Amen

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 55:6-9 *Pew Bible pg. 598*

Philippians 1:21-30 *Pew Bible pg. 953*

SERMON *The True Essence of Joy*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

***HYMN** *How Great Our Joy*

Chalice (Blue), 170

***BENEDICTION**

Now may the power and the presence of God go with you.

May the Call of Christ lead you into fruitful labor.

And may the Holy Spirit fill you with the joy of grace.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ, Amen.

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Amen*

***POSTLUDE** *Seek Ye the Lord*

J.V. Roberts

*The Worship is ended...
~Our Service Now Begins~*