



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

October 15, 2023 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
In Person & Live Streamed



*I will choose to find joy in the journey that God has set before me.
~ author unknown*

184 Cherry Brook Road, PO Box 133, Canton Center, CT 06020-0133

Office 860-693-4581

E-mail: office@cantoncenterchurch.org
www.cantoncenterchurch.org

~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

Please stand if able. **Bold denotes unison response.*

CHIMES

Karen Needham

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Brief announcements are welcome, please be in the front pews at the start of the announcements.
Offerings and prayer request on the yellow prayer 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 *Hymn of Grateful Praise* arr. Tom Fettke and Michael Laurence

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, let us worship the Lord with joyful hearts!

We come before You, O God, filled with happiness and joy.

You are the source of all good things, and we are grateful for Your many blessings.

You have given us the gift of life,

and You have filled it with love, laughter, and hope.

On this day, we come to celebrate Your goodness and to worship You in spirit and in truth.

Help us to open our hearts and minds to Your presence,

and to experience the joy of Your love.

Let us lift up our voices and sing praises to our God!

***HYMN** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* *Pilgrim (red) 8*

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

O God, our source of all happiness and joy, we gather before You today with one voice to worship You. We come to praise Your name, to celebrate Your goodness, and to experience the joy of Your presence. Thank You for the gift of life, and for all the ways You fill our days with joy. Thank You for our families and friends, for the beauty of nature, and for the opportunities to love and serve others. May our worship today be filled with happiness and gratitude, and may our praises rise to heaven as one voice. In Jesus' name, 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.

***Gloria Patri**

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end, Amen, Amen.*

OFFERING

*Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.
~ Luke 6:38* Let us now receive our Sunday morning offering.

OFFERTORY

Set your Hearts on the Higher Gifts
Senior Choir

Steven Warner

***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**

Loving God, we offer You these gifts in gratitude and love. We know that everything we have comes from You and ask You to bless these gifts. May they help to spread Your love and hope to all people. In Jesus' name, Amen.

(The youth are excused for Church school)

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE



Psalm 51:7-12 Pew Bible pg. 452

Philippians 2:1-4 & 4:4-9 Pew Bible pg. 954 & 955

SERMON *Worshipping God with Joy and Happiness ~ Rx for a Spiritually, Happy Life*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH



*Joys & Concerns
Moment of Silence
Pastoral Prayer*

***HYMN** *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart* Pilgrim (red) 345

***BENEDICTION**

Let us now go forth with joy in our hearts. May the joy of the Lord fill our every breath and every step. We rejoice in the knowledge that we are loved by God, unconditionally and completely. And may we share this joy with the world around us. May we be a beacon of hope to those who are struggling. And may we be a source of love, kindness, and joy to all who encounter us. Go forth in joy and share the good news of the gospel with all the world. Amen.

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Amen*

***POSTLUDE** *Lord, Above All other Treasures* J.S. Bach Roberta Bitgood text

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