



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

October 22, 2023 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
In Person & Live Streamed



To be more childlike, you don't have to give up being an adult. Recapture the childlike feelings of wide-eyed excitement, spontaneous appreciation, cutting loose, and being full of awe and wonder at this magnificent universe.
~ Wayne Dyer

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~ 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 *O For a Song*

Deborah Govenor

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, let us worship the God who loves us with a childlike love.

**We come to you, God, with childlike faith,
trusting in Your goodness and Your grace.**

Help us to trust You with all our hearts, even when we lack understanding.

**Help us to see the world through the eyes of a child,
a world of wonder and amazement.**

***HYMN** *When Morning Gilds the Sky*

Chalice (Blue) #100

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

Jesus said to His disciples, *Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.* May we all be filled with a childlike faith. Youngsters are an example of freedom, unconcerned with yesterdays and unafraid of tomorrows, living in the moment, carefree and happy. So, to all the young at heart help us witness the world through the eyes of our little ones. May we see the wonders they behold. With childlike curiosity, awe, and enthusiasm may we walk the path they do with curiosity of what thrills lie ahead. 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

Each one should give whatever they have decided in their heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will have an abundance for every good work.

~ 2 Corinthians 9:7-8. Let us now receive our Sunday morning offering.

OFFERTORY *Going Down the Valley* J.H. Fillmore arr. Jerome Epstein text Susan Cooper
Senior Choir, Soloist - Jim Todd, Guitarist - Jerry Alonzy

***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**

Dear God, we pray that You would help us to be faithful stewards of all that You have entrusted to us. May we always be generous with our time, talents, and resources. May we also be wise in the way we use them, so that they may be used to glorify Your name and advance Your kingdom. Please bless these offerings to strengthen this church and enable us to carry out the ministry that You have called us to do. In Jesus' name, Amen.

(The youth are excused for Church school)

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE



Matthew 19:13-15 Pew Bible pg. 800

Matthew 21:12-16 Pew Bible pg. 802

SERMON

Childlike Faith: Recapturing the Simplicity of Trust

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH



Joys & Concerns
Moment of Silence
Pastoral Prayer

*HYMN

I Love to Tell the Story

Chalice (blue) #480

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Amen*

*POSTLUDE

We Are the Children of Light

Hal Hopson

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