



# THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

October 8, 2023 ~ 10:00 a.m.  
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
In Person & Live Streamed



*If you will make time with God your first priority, everything else in your life will fall into place.  
~Joyce Meyer*

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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

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*\*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**

*Thy Church of Christ in Every Age*

William Knapp (Wareham)

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

We are here to worship the God of our Creation.

**We drop our façades at the door.**

The disguise of self-sufficiency and sainthood.

**The *mask* of perfectionism.**

Come just as you are to worship. No pretenses.

**Our God, who loves us just as we are,  
who alone makes us into what we were  
meant to be, we come to lift our praises  
to You in thanksgiving.**

People of God, let us begin our worship!

**\*HYMN**

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness* Chalice (blue) 86

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

Loving God, we gather today in Your presence, seeking Your guidance and wisdom as we reflect on our priorities. Forgive us for the times when we have allowed our priorities to become misaligned with Your will. Help us to see our lives through Your eyes, and to order our priorities accordingly. Help us to set our hearts on the things that matter most: loving You and Your people, and serving Your kingdom. Help us to be wise stewards of our time, our talents, and our resources. And as we gather here today, help us to be a community of support and encouragement for one another. In Jesus' name, we pray. 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**

We come before you today with grateful hearts. You have blessed us with so much, and we are humbled by your generosity. We now offer our gifts to You as a token of our love and appreciation. We pray that You would use them to advance Your kingdom and to glorify Your name. We pray that our offerings would be used to support the ministries of this church and to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ, to care for the poor and needy, and to make the world a better place. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Pastor: Let us now receive our Sunday morning offering.

**OFFERTORY**

*Bless the Lord, My Soul*  
Senior Choir

J.S. Bach arr. Hal Hopson

**\*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**

*(The youth are excused for Church school)*

## **READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE**



Mark: 10:17-31    Pew Bible pg. 822

## **SERMON**

*The One Thing That Matters Most*

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**



*Joys & Concerns  
Moment of Silence  
Pastoral Prayer*

**\*HYMN**      *Seek Ye First*      Chalice (blue) 354

## **\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**      *Sevenfold Amen*  
Senior Choir

**\*POSTLUDE**      *Laudate Dominum*      W.A. Mozart

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