



# THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

**First Sunday after Epiphany**

**January 7, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m.**



**In Person & Live Streamed**

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

Office 860-693-4581 E-mail: [office@cantoncenterchurch.org](mailto:office@cantoncenterchurch.org)  
[www.cantoncenterchurch.org](http://www.cantoncenterchurch.org)

~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

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

*Children will start in Church School returning for Holy Communion*

**CHIMES**

Karen Needham

**PRELUDE**

*Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*

arr. Will Thomas

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Ps. 95:1-7)

O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving;**

**let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!**

For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

In His hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are His also.

**The sea is His, for he made it, and the dry land,  
which His hands have formed.**

O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

**For He is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,**

**and the sheep of His hand. O that today you would listen to His voice!**

**\*HYMN**

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

Chalice (Blue), #65

**\*GATHERING PRAYER & \*THE LORD'S PRAYER (sung)**

**Thank You loving Lord for a new year is upon us. Let us seek the Lord's instruction to use our time wisely; to hear God speaking to our hearts; to truly listen with unwavering hope for a world of peace, kindness, and unity. Challenge us dear God to care for all that has been entrusted to us. All we are and all we have are gifts from You to be shared in service and love. In reverent awe, we join collectively to worship You within Your light of holiness, justice, mercy, and love. May we seek and discover our own understanding of Your will for us. In Christ, our dreams are fulfilled. In Christ, we share our interconnectedness. In Christ we witness the Savior's mysterious and marvelous gift of life and new beginnings. Let us rejoice in word, hope in prayer, lift our hearts in gratitude, and together, blissfully worship God. Blessed be the name of the Lord.**

**\*Hymn**

*The Lord's Prayer*

Chalice (blue), #307

**\*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**



**OFFERTORY**

*Ave Maria*  
Soloist - Jerry Alonzy

Schubert

**\*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**

Lord, we come before You today for all that You have given us. We are reminded of the story of the widow's offering in Mark 12:42, where she gave all that she had. Help us to give generously and with grateful hearts, just as she did. May our gifts be pleasing to You and bring glory to Your name. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen

**SCRIPTURE**



Isaiah 43:18-19    Pew Bible pg. 586  
1 Thessalonians 5:12-24    Pew Bible pg. 961

**SERMON**

*New Year {Spiritual} Resolutions*

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH



*Joys & Concerns  
Moment of Silence  
Pastoral Prayer*

**HYMN (seated)**

*I Come with Joy*

Chalice (blue), #420 (vs. 1&2)

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation  
Prayer over the Elements  
Serving of the Elements  
Prayer of Thanksgiving

**\*HYMN**

*Go in Peace*

Chalice (blue) 445 (2x)

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

*Amen*

**\*POSTLUDE**

*The Christmas Star*

Rhodes/Savigar arr. Ed Lojeski

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

**Interim Minister:** Rev. Kurt Satherlie  
**Director of Music:** Mary Lou Keefe  
**Asst. of Faith Formation:** Karen Needham  
**Office Manager:** Kristen DiMattia

**Duty Deacons:** Cora Mutch/Phil Doyle  
**Duty Trustees:** Don Scott & Julius Ziemba

**Ministers:** Every Member  
**Dir. of Faith Formation:** Dr. Hollace Bristol  
**Sexton:** Walt LeGeyt

**Camera:** Casey Levine  
**Greeters:** Skip & Nancy Alford  
**Coffee Hour Host:** Geri Bunnell