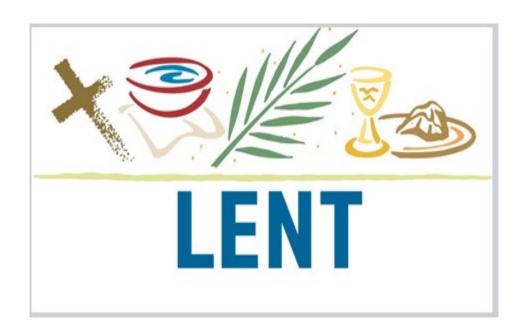


# THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Third Sunday in Lent March 3, 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 www.cantoncenterchurch.org

## ~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

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

CHIMES Karen Needham

#### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Those wishing to make a brief announcement are asked to be in the front pews at the start of the announcement period. Prayer request cards may be found on the tables at the back of the church.

**PRELUDE** 

"Adagio",

k. 356,

by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

All: As we continue our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit,

One: even into the uncomfortable places. In those forty days, and in that place,

All: Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt and temptation.

One: As we seek to follow Jesus, we will be led,

All: even into the uncomfortable choices. Jesus left the wilderness,

One: faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

All: As we continue on our path to faithfulness, let us be led by our Christ, rejoicing in the Lord our God.

\*HYMN

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

New Century Hymnal 286

Refrain: Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free.

Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep, then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep; and over the eons you called to each thing, "Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.

Refrain

You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand, and you goaded your people with a law and a land; when they were confounded by their idols and lies, then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.

Refrain

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill, then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still; and down in the city you called once again, when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.

Refrain

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes, from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams; our women see visions, our men clear their eyes, with bold new decisions your people arise.

Refrain

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

(Prayer by Christian author and artist, Jan Richardson)

God of the journey, who calls us to travel with faith, who reminds us that we are dust yet breathes into us the breath of life, hear our prayer.

Bearer of the Sun, draw us into your heart of fire, that we may have light to uncover the unremembered stories and strength to endure their telling. Creator of the world, awaken us to the blessedness of the earth, that we may honor those who once dwelled along these paths that we now travel.

Spirit who hovered over the face of the deep, lead us to your life-giving waters, that we may give our tears to the depths and find refreshment and delight. Helper who breathes life into each new generation, surround us with the winds of your spirit, and may we hear with tenderness the stories that they bear.

This we ask in Christ's name and spirit, as we also pray together:

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.



#### **OFFERING:**

God is the Giver of life, Christ is the Gift sent to share our life, and the Holy Spirit the power that enables us to continue in generosity, justice and joy. Let us open our hearts and our lives as we offer our gifts to God in service to one another.

**OFFERTORY** 

"Breathe on me, Breath of God",

by R. Jackson, Arr. Keveren

\*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**

**READING FROM SCRIPTURE:** 

Jeremiah 18:1-6

Pew Bible pg.629

Mark 1:9-15

Pew Bible pg. 812

**SERMON:** 

Dust, Mud, and the Movement of Life with God

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

HYMN:

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

New Century Hymnal 448

Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully.

Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my spirit, let it move at the impulse of your love.

Take my intellect and use all its powers as you choose.

Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.

Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwelling place.

Take my love and help it grow; let my loving overflow.

Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's community.

### **BENEDICTION:**

\*POSTLUDE "Sonata", Allegro Moderato, Hoboken XVI: 7, by Joseph Haydn