



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

April 14, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Third Sunday of Easter
In Person & Live Streamed



Jesus said: Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; 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 6:37-38

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~ 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

Be Thou My Vision

John Rutter

During the prelude silently send Christ's Joy, Peace, & Love to the person near you, to others in the church & to God's world

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord is Merciful, the Lord is Wonderful, the Lord is Great! His love, vast and boundless, stretches across the heavens with the promise of a new day.

Blessed are we to be chosen children of the living God by the boundless generosity of His spirit. In Christ, we have been adopted as a family to care for each other.

We are to be instruments of His compassion, to extend a gentle hand to our neighbor, whoever they may be.

We are inspired and encouraged to reach out to one another, to offer solace in times of hardship and celebrate the victories, big and small.

Let us Imagine a ripple of kindness, starting with a small act and spreading outwards, creating a wave of love that splashes over this church family and in our communities.

Within this church family, a powerful current of love flows. Let us imitate Christ's unconditional grace and reach out with kindness and love to one another and our neighbors.

***HYMN**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Pilgrim (Red) #8

*GATHERING PRAYER & *THE LORD'S PRAYER

Loving Jesus, You have provided us with the gift of true life, a life overflowing with Your love and grace. Guide us in carrying Your Light into the world beyond our church doors. May we be beacons of kindness, radiating Your compassion and love in all that we do. We celebrate the precious gift of faith that unites us as brothers and sisters in Christ. May this time of fellowship be filled with the joy of Your presence. As we lift our voices in song and praise, may our hearts overflow with gratitude for Your love and glory, 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.*

(The youth are excused for Church school)

OFFERING

The Bible tells us that a cheerful giver is loved by God (2 Corinthians 9:7). Let us take this time of sharing our gifts as an opportunity to plant seeds of generosity that will blossom into something beautiful. As we give with open hearts, we contribute to the flourishing of God's kingdom here on earth. Proverbs 11:24-25 states: *One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.* Let's embrace the joy of giving as we contribute to the important work of our church. Let us now receive our Sunday morning offering.



OFFERTORY



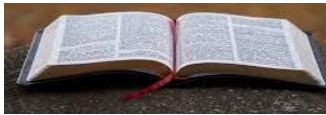
I Will Rejoice and Be Glad Joseph Martin Psalm 118:24
Senior Choir

***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**

Gracious God, with hearts beholden to You, we offer these gifts today!
They are a joyful tribute of Your own incredible generosity that surrounds us every day. May these offerings be used to spread Your love even further. Bless them to make a positive impact to those in need. With thankful hearts we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE



John 9:1-41 ~ Pew Bible pg. 871

SERMON *Seeing Through New Eyes: Jesus Challenges Human Intolerance*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH *Joys & Concerns ~ Moment of Silence ~ Pastoral Prayer*

***HYMN** *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* Chalice (Blue) #585

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** **Amen**

***POSTLUDE** *Rondeau* Henry Purcell

All members of the church are asked to remain in the sanctuary after the service for the congregation's Special Meeting that will follow immediately.

Coffee hour will follow the meeting.

THE WORSHIP IS ENDED ~OUR SERVICE NOW BEGINS