



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

April 21, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Fourth Sunday of Easter
In Person & Live Streamed

*God has two dwellings; one in heaven, and the other in a meek
and thankful heart. ~Izaak Walton*



*There is no greater power in Heaven or on Earth than pure, unconditional love.
The nature of the God force, the unseen intelligence in all things, which causes
the material world and is the center of both the spiritual and physical plane, is
best described as pure, unconditional love. ~Wayne Dyer*

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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

Grazioso

Arnold Sherman

Cherry Brook Chimes Bell Choir

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

In this sacred space, let us quiet our anxieties and open our hearts to the truth Jesus offers. Let us acknowledge the beauty and challenges of our earthly lives while preparing our hearts for the promise of eternity.

Let us open our hearts to the Spirit's presence, seeking comfort and truth.

As we gather today, anxieties may cloud our hearts but do not despair. In the Gospel of John Jesus tells us, *do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.*

We will believe!

While we journey on this earth, Jesus offers Himself as the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He Shepherds us through the joys and sorrows of this life, leading us ultimately to our eternal home.

Though we may not fully understand the journey ahead, Jesus offers Himself as our guide. He is the bridge between our earthly home and our eternal heavenly home.

Let us find solace in Jesus' presence with hearts open to both the beauty of life here with an eye on the promise of our eternal one.

We are filled with hope! We will walk with You, Jesus, in this life and the next. With grateful hearts, we come to worship you, Almighty God.

***HYMN**

For All the Saints

Chalice (Blue) #637

*GATHERING PRAYER & *THE LORD'S PRAYER

We come together in this beautiful sanctuary or from the comfort of our homes. Our hearts yearn for a place we feel connected. One place is within this church sanctuary, physically or virtually. Like wanderers, we may sense the ache of a world that does not always feel welcoming. This church is a refuge for us. Here, we find solace in the Spirit's presence and the fellowship of God's people. Grant us, Lord, a glimpse of our eternal dwelling place as we heard from Jesus, *there are many rooms in my Father's house, if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?* May our time in worship strengthen our faith and deepen our connection to You. In Jesus' holy 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.*

READING OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

(The youth are excused for Church school)

OFFERING

As we reflect on God's abundant blessings in our lives, let our hearts overflow with gratitude. With joyful spirits, let us share our gifts to help our church continue spreading Jesus' command to love our neighbors. Let us now receive our Sunday morning offering.



OFFERTORY

Be Still

Senior Choir



Mary McDonald

***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**

May our offerings fuel the ministries of this church along with acts of kindness we carry forth. May Your essence of giving flow freely through us, creating a ripple effect of generosity that touches every corner of our community.

SCRIPTURE



2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 Pew Bible pg. 939
John 14:1-7 Pew Bible pg. 877

SERMON *Viewing our Earthly Home with an Eye on Eternity*

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

***HYMN** *O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee* Pilgrim (red) #418

***BENEDICTION**

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

***POSTLUDE** *Rondeau* Henry Purcell

THE WORSHIP IS ENDED ~OUR SERVICE NOW BEGINS