



# THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

April 28, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m. ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter  
In Person & Live Streamed



*He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you.  
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. ~Micah 6.  
If you do this, people will see the Christ in you.*

Don't shine  
so others can  
see you.  
Shine so  
that through  
you others  
can see  
*Him.*

~C. S. Lewis

*I see Jesus in every human being. I say to myself, this is hungry Jesus, I must feed him. This is sick Jesus. This one has leprosy or gangrene; I must wash him and tend to him. I serve because I love Jesus.*

~ Mother Teresa

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.*

**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**

*Peace Like a River*

Buryl Red

*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**

As you look around the sanctuary, familiar faces abound but behind those faces are stories yet to be found.

**There are many stories we each have untold,  
yet to share them is difficult when we're not very bold.**

Look at one another in a different light, imagine each of them a reflection of Christ's Light.

**Let us look beyond dissimilarities of identity  
and share with others our individuality.**

We can speak plainly or in rhymes, either way spreading Christ's love in these conflicting times.

**With humble and open hearts, dear Lord let us see,  
the Christ within each person, eternally.**

**\*HYMN**

*Rise Up, O Saints of God*

Chalice (Blue) #611

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

**As we worship in this sacred space, we pray to see the Christ in ourselves and one another, becoming a united body that reflects Your love in the world. Open our eyes dear Lord to see the Divine in each person, to realize**

they, like us, have their own troubles, trials, and struggles. May our own divinity, that spark of Christ within, help trigger a smile, comfort the oppressed, and show kindness and hospitality to all. We recognize our individual journey of living our lives is within a circle of sharing, both giving and receiving. May we both individually and collectively become a beacon of Your mercy and love, a testament to the truth that Christ dwells within each of us. May it be so, 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.*

Sunday food collection for the Canton Food Bank  
*(The youth are excused for Church school)*

**OFFERING**

As we reflect on the blessings in our lives, help us remember that Jesus walked among people just like us. In our Lord's example of the widow's offering of two pennies, she gave from her heart as it was all she had. May we be like this woman of old and give what we can with a grateful heart. We will now receive our Sunday morning offering.



**OFFERTORY**

*Fairest Lord Jesus*  
Senior Choir



Derek Hakes

**\*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, we present these humble offerings as a symbol of our devotion to You. We acknowledge that all we have comes from You and we freely give a portion back in gratitude. Bless these gifts and use them to further the work of our church that what we do may bring You glory. May they inspire continued support for our neighbors in this community and around the globe. We pray with open hearts, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen.

## **SCRIPTURE**



Genesis 18:1-8      Pew Bible pg. 12

Hebrews 13:1,2;15,16;20,21      Pew Bible pg. 979

**SERMON**      *When We See Christ in Everyone ~ The Unifying Power of Love is Immeasurable*

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**



*Joys & Concerns ~ Moment of Silence ~ Pastoral Prayer*

**\*HYMN**      *In Christ There Is No East or West*      Pilgrim (Red) #414

## **\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**      *Amen*

**\*POSTLUDE**      *Toccata*      Benedetto Marcello

***THE WORSHIP IS ENDED ~ OUR SERVICE NOW BEGINS***