



**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
CANTON CENTER, CT**

**June 23, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
In Person & Live Streamed**



Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year.

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

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

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 *Give Me Jesus* Traditional Spiritual, setting by Mary McDonald

CALL TO WORSHIP

We exist in a constant current, swept forward by the relentless flow of time.

We are pulled by the tides of the past and the anxieties of the future.

But in this sanctuary, a haven of peace, we are invited to step out of the rushing river.

Let us take a slow, deep breath, allowing the air to fill our lungs.

Let the tension in our shoulders release, and enable our minds to settle.

We are surrounded by the beauty of the present moment. Look around, feel the textures beneath your fingertips, listen to the sounds that fill the air. This is where we truly exist.

Let go of the worries that linger in the past and the anxieties that cloud the future.

Here we find solace and connection. Here, we can open our hearts and minds, ready to receive the blessings that await us. With clear minds, open hearts, and feeling at peace, let us begin our worship to Almighty God.

***HYMN** *Now Thank We All Our God* Chalice (Blue) #715

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

God has never asked us to be perfect, but to be faithful. Friends in Christ you have shown your faithfulness by being here in unity with one another and therefore in Unity with God. Lift up your spirit and rejoice for the Kingdom of heaven is among us. We sometimes forget the many blessings all around us; we forget to take notice of the beauty that consistently surrounds us. We moan about our misfortunes and dismiss the miracles in our everyday lives. Lord, renew us in Your Spirit today. Help us trust in You, in every aspect of our lives with joy of the everlasting life in Your spirit. Through Jesus Christ 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*

OFFERING

The Bible tells us that 'God loves a cheerful giver' (2 Corinthians 9:7). Today, let's celebrate our faith and the work of this church by giving joyfully from our hearts. We will now receive our Sunday morning offering.



God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens William Moore, setting by Don Hustad

***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**

We thank You for Your countless blessings, for the gift of life, for our families and friends and we pray that these offerings will help the work of this church community.

SCRIPTURE



Matthew 6:25-34 Pew Bible pg. 787

SERMON

Honey for the Soul: Finding Joy in the Present

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH



*Joys & Concerns
Moment of Silence
Pastoral Prayer*

*HYMN

It Is Well with My Soul

Chalice (Blue) #561

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE Amen

*POSTLUDE

O God of Earth and Altar

Old English melody, arr. James Masfield

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: Phil Doyle & Cora Mutch
Coffee Hour: Rebecca Glinsman

Ministers: Every Member
Dir. of Faith Formation: Hollace Bristol
Sexton: Walt LeGeyt
Trustees: Scott Neumann & Phil LeGeyt