



# THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

September 22, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m.  
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**In Person & Live Streamed**

*It is only with gratitude that life becomes rich ~Dietrich Bonhoeffer*



*To be grateful is to recognize the love of God in everything He has given us -- and He has given us everything. Every breath we draw is a gift of His love, every moment of existence is a grace, for it brings with it immense graces from Him. ~Thomas Merton*

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~ 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**    *Sing Praise to God who Reigns Above*    Johann Schutz arr. Frances Williams

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

We are here to worship a remarkable God!

**The love of God welcomes us, the grace of Christ awaits us,  
the joy of the Spirit enfolds us.**

Come as you are; come with a humble grateful heart;  
come in adoration to an incredible Creator!

**The love of God inspires us. The grace of Christ redeems us.  
The joy of the Spirit uplifts us.**

We come in joy, come as the eager, come as the thankful,  
come as the recipients of amazing grace.

**The love of God overflows our hearts, the grace of Christ  
liberates our spirits, The joy of the Spirit sings in our minds.  
Let us begin our worship singing grateful praise to our LORD!**

**\*HYMN**

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

Pilgrim (Red) #66

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

**Dear God, we come to Your house listening for that still, small voice calling each of us by name. We are here to be bathed in the waters of life, to sing aloud of the many blessings You have provided, to shout with joy to the God of ALL people. Heavenly Mother, open our eyes that we may see the needs of others; open our ears that we may hear people's cries for justice; open our hearts that we may assist sojourners near and far. Use each of us as ministers of Christ showing us where love, hope and faith are needed. 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**

We now offer to God a portion of the blessings we have received being grateful for the full measure of grace that we share. Let us now receive our Sunday morning offering.

**Food Collection**

*(Youth are excused for Church School)*



**OFFERTORY**



*Rejoice in the Lord Always*  
Senior Choir

Henry Purcell

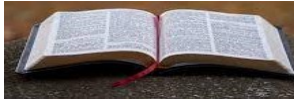
**\*Doxology**

*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 come before You today with hearts full of gratitude. You are the source of all blessings, and all we have comes from Your abundant hand. We offer these gifts, a symbol of our love and commitment to Your work. May they be used to spread Your love, strengthen Your church, and serve those in need. Bless these offerings, and may our generosity inspire others and reflect the joy of serving You. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE



Psalm 138:1-6    Pew Bible pg. 503  
Colossians 3:15-17    Pew Bible pg. 958  
Philippians 4:4-9    Pew Bible pg. 955

## SERMON

*Don't Just Survive, Thrive: The Power of Gratitude*

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH



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

## \*HYMN

*On Eagle's Wings*

Hymnal (Red) #77

## \*BENEDICTION

## \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*Sevenfold Amen*  
Senior Choir

## \*POSTLUDE

*Praise the Lord with Music*

Jay Althouse

*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 Trustees:** Phil LeGeyt & Don Scott

**Ministers:** Every Member  
**Dir. of Faith Formation:** Hollace Bristol  
**Sexton:** Walt LeGeyt  
**Coffee Hour Host:** Rebecca Glinsman  
**Deacons:** Cora Mutch & Phil Doyle