



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

September 8, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
In Person & Live Streamed



Times of transition are strenuous, but I love them. They are an opportunity to purge, rethink priorities, and be intentional about new habits. We can make our new normal any way we want. ~Kristin Armstrong

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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

Prayer

Englebert Humperdinck

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come into God's House with confidence and praise.

God of abounding love, we seek Your presence in our lives.

Our God of love is with us this day and every day.

Trust the Lord who walks beside us through all our transitions.

We thank You Lord for the gifts, talents and skills

**You have blessed us with. Give us courage to use them
in hospitality and outreach to all people.**

Praise be to God for the experiences that have brought us

to this moment in our personal lives and the life of this church.

**Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with You
and supporting one another.**

***HYMN**

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Pilgrim (Red) #1

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

Jesus said, *I have come that you may have life and life to the fullest.*

**Remind us Lord that it is through You that we are alive
and have an abundance of blessings.**

Jesus said, *Your light must shine before all people.*

Remind us Lord to honor You in reaching out in hospitality to all.

Jesus said, *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.*

Remind us Lord to show our love for You and others in words and actions.

Jesus said, *Do not judge, or you too will be judged.*

Remind us Lord that we have only one Judge that is You.

Jesus said, *take up your cross and follow me.*

Remind us Lord that silence is not enough: yet,

we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

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



OFFERTORY



In Flanders Fields
Paul Stansel - soloist

Dr. John McCrae
arr. Jacobson/Emberson

***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**

As we present these offerings today, we give thanks for the prospects to grow, to learn, and to step into new opportunities. Lord, may these offerings be stepping stones on our spiritual paths. May they strengthen our connection to You and to this community. Use these gifts for Your glory, for the good of this church, and for the needs of those around us. We dedicate these offerings to You in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE



Deuteronomy 31:1,2;7-8

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Pew Bible pg.163

Pew Bible pg. 537

SERMON

God's Grace Through Transitions

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH



*Joys & Concerns
Moment of Silence
Pastoral Prayer*

*HYMN

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

Chalice (Blue) # 518

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Peace I Leave with You

Matthew Glandorf

*POSTLUDE

To God be the Glory

William Doane arr. R J Hughes

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: Scott Neumann & Art Dewey

Coffee Hour: Hollace Bristol

Ministers: Every Member

Dir. of Faith Formation: Hollace Bristol

Sexton: Walt LeGeyt

Deacons: Cora Mutch & Phil Doyle