



# THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

**November 3, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m.**  
**Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost**  
**In Person & Live Streamed**



*God creates out of nothing. Wonderful you say. Yes, to be sure, but he does what is still more wonderful: he makes saints out of sinners. ~ Soren Kierkegaard*

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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

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

*Children will start in Church School returning for Holy Communion*

**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**

*Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You*

Jay Althouse

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

We come together, united by God's grace, guided by faith, and hopeful anticipation.

**We come as a community of expectant hearts and imperfect souls.**

Let us then open our hearts to God's love filling us with a sense of wonder and awe.

**Empower us dear God to emulate Jesus, even as we stumble and fall.**

**\*HYMN**

*Rise Up, O Saints of God*

Chalice (Blue) #611

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

**Gracious God, as we worship You today, fill us with Your Holy Spirit. We gather before Your throne of grace, humbled by Your love and mercy. Forgive us for our shortcomings and our failures. Help us to live lives that honor You, to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to spread Your love to the world. May our hearts be open to Your Word and our mind, body, and soul, receptive to Your guidance and truth. As we depart today may we be renewed, refreshed, and ready to serve You. *In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.***

**\*HYMN**

*The Lord's Prayer*

Chalice (blue), #307

**\*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

*A Thousand Storms*  
Senior Choir



Herb Fromback  
& Heather Sorenson

### \*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

Almighty God, from Your bounty comes all that we have. We offer these gifts with grateful hearts, acknowledging that all things are Yours. May these offerings be used wisely to further Your work in our church and beyond. Guide us as we use them to spread Your message of love, to serve those in need, and to strengthen our community of faith. Amen

### SCRIPTURE



Galatians 3:23-28    Pew Bible pg. 947

Luke 13:1-9    Pew Bible pg. 848

### SERMON

*Sinners to Saints: An Arduous Quest*

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH



*Joys & Concerns  
Moment of Silence  
Pastoral Prayer*

**HYMN (seated)**

*Bread of the World, in Mercy Broken*

Chalice (Blue) #387

### **Holy Communion**



### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Gracious God, our hearts overflow with gratitude for the gift of communion. We thank You for the spiritual nourishment and strength You have given us. We thank You for the hope and joy You have instilled in our hearts. May we live our lives in a way that reflects Your love, compassion, and grace. With grateful hearts, we offer this prayer to You, O divine Creator.**

**\*HYMN**

*How Firm a Foundation*

Pilgrim (Red) #372

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

*Sevenfold Amen*  
Senior Choir

**\*POSTLUDE**

*Praise Ye the Father* Charles Gounod arr. Carl Deis

*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

**Deacons:** Darryl Haberern & Kristin Oswald

**Trustees:** Sue Lampros & Bob Howson

**Ministers:** Every Member

**Dir. of Faith Formation:** Hollace Bristol

**Sexton:** Walt LeGeyt

**Office Manager:** Kristen DiMattia

**Coffee Hour:** Casey Levine & Geri Bunnell