



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

November 24, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Twenty-Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

In Person & Live Streamed



*Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings,
turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.
~ William Arthur Ward*

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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

Thy Holy Wings
Cherry Brook Chimes Handbell Choir

Cathy Moglebust

~During the prelude focus your mind and heart on the peace, love, and grace of the Holy Spirit~

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, let us gather with thankful hearts and voices raised in praise.

**We lift our gratitude for the harvest of blessings,
for the bounty of grace, and for the gift of community.**

In the beauty of creation, in the warmth of fellowship,
and in the moments of joy and sorrow, we see God's hand at work.

**God is so good, His love endures forever,
and His faithfulness continues through all generations.**

Let our worship be a testament to our grateful hearts,
and may our songs and prayers rise like incense to heaven.

**In times of joy and in times of struggle, we have seen the faithfulness of our
God. Let us now worship the One who is deserving of all honor and praise.**

***HYMN**

Come, Ye Thankful People Come

Chalice (Blue) #718

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

Gracious and Loving God, we come before You with hearts full of gratitude and praise, mindful of the many blessings You have poured into our lives. We thank You for the abundance of Your provision, for the beauty of creation, and for the love that surrounds us. We are grateful for the gift of this church community, for family and friends who enrich our lives, for food on our tables, for roofs over our heads, and for the freedoms we enjoy. Most of all,

we are thankful for Your never-ending love and grace, which sustains us each day. Guide us to live with grateful hearts, not just today, but every day. May our lives reflect Your love and generosity, and may we be a blessing to others as we share Your love with the world. In Jesus' name, 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

Thanksgiving is not only a time to appreciate the abundance in our lives, but also to share that abundance with others. Each Sunday we have the opportunity to extend our gratitude through our offerings, giving back to God and our community from what we have been so generously given. May our gifts be a testament to our thankfulness and a means to bless those around us, reflecting the love and grace that God has bestowed upon us. As we present our offerings, let us do so with the spirit of thanksgiving, recognizing that every good and perfect gift comes from above. We will now receive our Sunday morning offering.



OFFERTORY

We Give Thanks
Senior Choir



Boersma/Lantz

(Fourth Sunday Food Collection)

*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

Divine Providence, as we offer these gifts, we pray for a transformation within ourselves. Guide us to be more than just givers of material things. Shape us into instruments of your love, offering our time, talents, and compassion alongside our financial contributions. May these offerings be used to fulfill your purpose and bring blessings to all. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

(The youth are excused for Church school)

ANTHEM

The Lord's Prayer
Jerry Alonzy - soloist

Albert Hay Malotte

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH



Joys & Concerns ~ Moment of Silence ~ Pastoral prayer

SCRIPTURE 1 Thessalonians 5:9-18 & Colossians 3:12-17 Pew Bible pgs. 961, 958

SERMON *Gratitude in the Midst of Adversity: A Testament of Faith*

***HYMN** *Now Thank We All Our God* Pilgrim (Red) #29

*BENEDICTION

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *From Whose Abundant Stores* Franz Joseph Haydn
Senior Choir

***POSTLUDE** *O Brother Man* Roy Ringwald

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
Trustees: Sue Lampros & Bob Howson

Ministers: Every Member
Dir. of Faith Formation: Dr. Hollace Bristol
Sexton: Walt LeGeyt
Greeters: Mary Lee Dunn
Deacons: Tim Lundgren & Kristin Oswald