



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

January 12, 2025 ~ 10:00 a.m.
First Sunday after the Epiphany

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life. John 8:12



Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.
~ Martin Luther King Jr.

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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

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

CHIMES

Karen Needham

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brief announcements from the congregation are welcome. Those wishing to make an 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

Prelude

by Camille Saint-Saens

During the prelude an acolyte will light our altar candles

CALL TO WORSHIP

Loving God, whose touch can heal the broken places of life, touch us today.

**You who heal the sick and liberate the imprisoned soul,
who bring justice in the midst of oppression and strength
in our weakness, pour out Your Spirit upon us today.**

Spirit of peace, quiet our minds of confusion and despair.

**We come to You with hearts filled with hope.
Lord, hold us gently in Your goodness.**

Forgiving God, whose call to repentance promises grace upon grace,
place your mercy in our souls today.

Remind us Lord of all the promises You have made to us.

Come then brothers and sisters of faith. Let us glorify God's name lifting our
praise in song and prayer.

Yes, let us proclaim God in love and worship. Praise be to God!

***HYMN**

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Chalice (blue) #592

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

Loving God, in this time of worship, we remember the calling of the first disciples, and we are inspired by their willingness to follow Jesus. As we delve into Mark's Gospel, we are reminded of the profound impact that Jesus

had on those who encountered Him. We marvel at His authority, His compassion, and His unwavering commitment in teaching and showing us how to love other in our world. Fill us with the same sense of awe and wonder that the first disciples felt. Give us the courage to leave behind our comforts and distractions, and to follow You with all our hearts. Help us to be attentive to Your call, and to respond with faith and trust. May Your Holy Spirit move among us, drawing us closer to You and to one another. As we worship together, may we be transformed by Your presence and inspired to live out our faith in the world. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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.*

(The youth are excused for Church school)

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Martha Stansel

OFFERING



OFFERTORY

God will take care of You

by S. Martin

arr. Phillip Keveren

***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

Lord God, just as the disciples responded to Your call by leaving their nets, we offer these gifts in response to Your call in our lives. May these offerings be used to support the work of Your church, to reach out to those in need, and to spread the Good News of Your love. Amen

SCRIPTURE



Mark 1:9-28

Pew Bible pg. 812

SERMON

Following Jesus: Captivated by Christ Then and Now

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH



*Joys & Concerns
Moment of Silence
Pastoral Prayer*

*HYMN

I Love to Tell the Story

Chalice (Blue) #480

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Amen

*POSTLUDE

Toccata in C

by Carlos Seixas

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: Art Dewey & Julius Ziembra

Ministers: Every Member
Dir. of Faith Formation: Dr. Hollace Bristol
Sexton: Walt LeGeyt
Coffee Hour Host: Martha Stansel
Greeters: Ann Buckley