



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

January 19, 2025 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Parable of the Sower Heart Types



Blind Heart

Heart's disposition blinds hearer from grasping God's Message.

Rocky Heart

Enthusiastic at first to God's Word, Rocky Heart shallow & lacks will to strengthen initial gift.

Rebellious Heart

Heart partially commits to Christ, leaving disastrous vulnerability to worldly desires & concerns.

Remaining Heart

Heart fully dedicated to Jesus is firmly established, reaping fruit of righteousness plentifully.

Parable of the Sower Faith Types



Faith Blinders

Value of God's Message not understood, and is disregarded.

Faith Rocky

Contentment in surface faith in God, skips dedication to depth needed to stand firm.

Faith Rebel

Destructively allows worldly priorities to compete with faith in God as primary.

Remaining Faith

Enduring faith in Jesus, fruitfully understands and practices God's Word.

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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

Peace

by Eugene Englert

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the Parable of the Sower, the seed was scattered on many kinds of soil:
some rocky, some thorny, some rich and deep.

**We come to our home of worship searching for fertile ground within
ourselves, where the Word of our Lord can take root and flourish.**

Let us examine the soil of our own hearts today and prepare them
to receive the life-giving seed of God's love.

**Lord God, we pray for nourishment and guidance
as we journey ahead in a new year.**

Let us now begin our worship to Almighty God, the source of all good seeds.

May we cultivate a spirit of love and service emulating our Lord.

***HYMN**

All Creatures of Our God and King

Chalice (Blue) #22

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

**Gracious God, You are the Gardener of our souls. You scatter seeds of
hope, of love, of justice, and of peace throughout the world. May we
be fertile ground, receiving Your Word with open hearts, allowing it
to take root and grow, bearing fruit that nourishes the world allowing
Your love to transform us into instruments of your peace. 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)



Martha Stansel

OFFERING

As we present our gifts this morning, may they be a fragrant bouquet offered to God, bringing glory to His holy name. Let us now receive our Sunday morning offering.



OFFERTORY

Amazing Grace



by John Newton

***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, as we present these gifts, we remember the parable of the Sower. We acknowledge that just as seeds are scattered, so too are the opportunities for Your kingdom to grow. We trust in Your promise that even a small seed can yield a bountiful harvest. May this offering be like the seed that falls on good soil, nurtured by Your Spirit and producing a harvest of love, joy, and hope. May it support ministries that cultivate fertile ground, where the seeds of faith can take root and flourish. We pray that these gifts will be used to spread the Good News, to build up Your Church, and to bring glory to Your holy name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE



Luke 8:4-15

Pew Bible pg. 840

SERMON

Sowing Seeds of Faith: Preparing Our Hearts for God's Word



*Joys & Concerns
Moment of Silence
Pastoral Prayer*

***HYMN**

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

Pilgrim (Red) #460

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Amen

***POSTLUDE**

Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him

by Rowland Prichard
Setting by Anna Laura Page

The Worship is ended...Our Service Now Begins