



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

**February 2, 2025 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
Worship & Communion
In Person & Live Streamed**



*Above all the grace and the gifts that Christ gives to his beloved is that of overcoming self.
~ Francis of Assisi*

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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

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

Children will start in Church School returning for Holy Communion

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

Steal Away to Jesus spiritual, setting by Marianne Kim

During the prelude an acolyte will light our altar candles

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us join one and all to worship the Source of all life,
the true vine from which we draw our strength.

**We are here to worship, to connect the branches
of our souls to the Vine of life.**

Then let us rejoice in the love of Christ, the Vine that sustains us
and empowers us to live lives of purpose and meaning.

**We come to rejoice, to celebrate the grace that restores us and
enables us to bear the fruit of the Spirit for the glory of our Creator.**

Let us open our hearts and minds to the Word of God, that we may be transformed
by His truth and empowered to live lives of love and service.

**We are here to listen, to learn, and to be transformed
by the life-giving Word of God.**

***HYMN**

The Church's One Foundation

Chalice (Blue) #272

***GATHERING PRAYER**

**Gracious God, we acknowledge our need for Your life-giving presence.
Like branches yearning for the sap of the vine, our spirits long for Your
nourishment. We confess that we often stray, distracted by the world's appeal**

and neglecting the deep connection with You that sustains our souls. Help us to cultivate a deeper intimacy with You, that we may bear the fruit of the Spirit in all that we do. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

***HYMN**

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

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

Just as the branches of the vine bear fruit as a natural expression of their connection to the source, so too do our lives bear fruit when we are connected to Christ. Our offerings today are an expression of that connection, a way to show gratitude for the abundant life we have received. We will now receive our Sunday morning offering.



OFFERTORY

Largo

by Antonio Vivaldi

***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 our gifts today, we offer them not as a duty, but as an expression of our gratitude for the abundant life we have received through Christ. These offerings, like the branches bearing fruit, are a testament to Your grace and the nourishment we receive from You. May these gifts be used to further Your kingdom, to support those in need, and to spread the good news of Your love to the world. We dedicate these offerings to You, Lord, trusting that they will be used for Your glory. Amen

SCRIPTURE



John 15:1-17

Pew Bible pg. 878

SERMON *Finding Life in the True Vine-Overcoming Spiritual "Failure to Thrive"*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

{Soft, Reflective Music as the Deacons come forward}

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Prayer over the Elements

Serving of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious Lord, thank You for filling us with Your presence, a flame of love that warms our hearts and renews our spirits. May this holy meal nourish our spirits and connect us to the True Vine guiding us to be beacons of light radiating Your compassion and grace. This we pray in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen

***HYMN**

God Be with You till We Meet Again

Pilgrim (Red) #61

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE Amen**

***POSTLUDE**

Built on the Rock of the Church Doth Stand

setting by Flor Peeters

The Worship is ended...Our Service Now Begins