



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

February 23, 2025 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

If you 'sow' the "Beatitudes," you will 'reap' the "fruit of the Spirit." ~ Mark Besh

THE BEATITUDES

BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT,
FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

BLESSED ARE THEY WHO MOURN,
FOR THEY WILL BE COMFORTED.

BLESSED ARE THE MEEK,
FOR THEY WILL INHERIT THE LAND.

BLESSED ARE THEY WHO HUNGER AND THIRST
FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS,
FOR THEY WILL BE SATISFIED.

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL,
FOR THEY WILL BE SHOWN MERCY.

BLESSED ARE THE CLEAN OF HEART,
FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD.

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS, FOR THEY
WILL BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD.

BLESSED ARE THEY WHO ARE PERSECUTED
FOR THE SAKE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,
FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Matthew 5:3-10

Blessed is the influence of one true, loving human soul on another. ~ George Eliot

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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

O For a Song

Deborah Govenor

During the prelude an acolyte will light our altar candles

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus climbed a mountain and sat down to teach. He didn't offer a path to worldly power or material wealth. Instead, Jesus taught us a path to true joy, a way of living that turns the world's expectations upside down. We call it the Beatitudes, a blessing offered to all who are willing to embrace a different way.

**May our hearts be open wide to embrace these Beatitudes,
not as mere words, but as a way of life.**

**Let us worship God, seeking His grace to live
as blessed people, bringing His kingdom to earth.**

Let us worship the one who showed us the way.

***HYMN**

Come, Thou Almighty King

Pilgrim (Red) #246

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

God of Love and Light shine on us bringing restoration, healing and hope. Yours is the light which guides us and the voice which we follow leading us out of deep waters and dark places. God of mystery, make us new creatures in Christ, that our lives may reflect Your glory. Through Christ in us, we encounter a well-lit path to wholeness and forgiveness. May the Light that is Jesus lead us into new and challenging ways of living and serving. In Christ our 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.*

SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION BY OUR YOUTH

(The youth are excused for Church school)

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (insert)

OFFERING

In Deuteronomy 15:10, we hear these words: *Give generously to the one in need; do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless all your work and everything you put your hand to.* Inspired by these words, let us offer our gifts today as we now receive our Sunday morning offering.



OFFERTORY



Kyrie

John Leavitt

Senior Choir

***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**

Let us now dedicate our offerings to God in prayer.

Dear Lord, we lift our hearts in prayer, asking You to bless these gifts and their use. We pray this church is a place of support, love, and shared purpose. Our offerings are a way of strengthening our church community, as we endeavor to serve others and bring glory to Your name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE



Matthew 4:23-25, 5:1-12

Pew Bible pg. 785

SERMON (Part 1 sermon) Feb 23: *Seeds of Hope: Planting the First Beatitudes in Our Hearts*
(Part 2 sermon) March 2: *A Symphony of Blessedness: The Remaining Beatitudes*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH



Joys & Concerns Read
Moment of Silence
Pastoral Prayer

***HYMN**

On Eagle's Wings

Chalice (Blue) #77

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Amen

***POSTLUDE**

Sheep May Safely Graze

J. S. Bach

The Worship is ended...Our Service Now Begins