



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

March 2, 2025 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Communion Sunday

THE EIGHT BEATITUDES OF JESUS

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for
righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure of heart,
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall 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

Lord Jesus Saves †

*For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled,
and those who humble themselves will be exalted. ~Luke 18:14*

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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 *Be Still My Soul (Finlandia)* Jean Sibelius arr. Chathy Moglebust and MLK

During the prelude an acolyte will light our altar candles

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather today, longing for a world marked by justice, compassion, and reconciliation. Let us lift our voices in praise to the God of peace, who calls us to be agents of healing and understanding in a broken world. Let us open our hearts to the transformative power of the Beatitudes, and let us be inspired to live as true children of God, reflecting His love and peace to all.

God of unconditional love, we come before You today acknowledging our need for Your guidance and strength. As we delve into the wisdom of the Beatitudes, grant us the courage to embrace the call of Christ's teachings. May Your Holy Spirit empower us to live lives that reflect Your grace and love, that we may truly be called Your children. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

***HYMN**

Morning Has Broken

Chalice (Blue) #53

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

The world around us cries out for healing, and we confess that we often feel overwhelmed by the challenges we face. Teach us how to be instruments of Your love, bringing reconciliation and hope to those around us. Let us open our hearts to the challenging truths of the Beatitudes, and find strength in the promise of God's enduring presence. In Jesus' name, 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)

OFFERING

Just as the Beatitudes reveal the path to true blessedness, so too does our giving reflect our understanding of Your kingdom. May these gifts, freely and joyfully given, be used to further Your work of justice, mercy, and love in the world. Let us now receive our Sunday morning offering.



OFFERTORY



In the Bleak Midwinter
Senior Choir

Christina Rossetti words
Harold Darke Music arr.

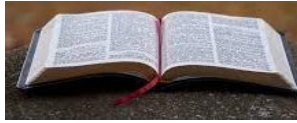
***Doxology**

*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**

Dear Lord, we offer these gifts, as we dedicate ourselves anew to living out the Beatitudes in our daily lives. Receive these offerings, Lord, and use them to empower us to live lives that reflect Your character. May our giving be an act of worship, a profound expression of our commitment to following Your path, and a seed planted in the fertile ground of Your kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who taught us the way to true blessedness. Amen

SCRIPTURE



Matthew 25:31-46
Galatians 5:16,17;22-25

Pew Bible pg. 807
Pew Bible pg. 948

SERMON

A Symphony of Blessedness: The Remaining Beatitudes

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH



Joys & Concerns Read
Moment of Silence
Pastoral Prayer

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation
Prayer over the Elements
Serving of the Elements
Prayer of Thanksgiving

*HYMN

Let There be Peace on Earth

Chalice (Blue) #677

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Amen

*POSTLUDE

O Praise Ye the Lord (Laudate Dominum)

C. Hubert H. Parry
arr. Kenneth Lowanberg

The Worship is ended...Our Service Now Begins