



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

**March 30, 2025 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Fourth Sunday in Lent**



God's greatest gifts are often disguised as opportunities, so look closely and seize them.

~unknown author

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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

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

Youth participants will sit on the benches on the altar with Pastor Kurt

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

Pie Jesu

Andrew Lloyd Webber from his Requiem

During the prelude, acolytes will light our altar candles

Elizabeth and Ashlynn

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lana: Good morning, everyone!

All: GOOD MORNING! (loud)

Lana: Did you know that today is a special gift from God?

Ella: Each day is special to look for all the fun and important things
we can do for God and others.

Lana: What opportunities will You make available today?

Ella: Please give us brave hearts to try new things and not be afraid to make mistakes.

Lana: Fill us with Your love, Jesus, so we can share it with everyone we meet.

Ella: Let's open our hearts and worship God with joy!

All: AMEN!

***HYMN**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Pilgrim (Red) #363

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

Silvie

As we gather together in Your name, Lord, let us open our hearts with gratitude for Your constant love and the many opportunities You provide. Let us join our voices in prayer:

Loving God, we thank You for the gift of this day, a fresh start filled with possibilities. Help us to be fully present today, to be aware of the opportunities You place before us. Fill our hearts with a faith that moves us to action, to seize the opportunities to love, to serve, and to grow closer to You. Help us to be open to these moments, big and small, and to not let fear or hesitation cause us to miss them. May Your Spirit empower us to step out of our comfort zones, knowing that You are always with us, guiding our steps. Fill us with Your Spirit so that we may live boldly and courageously, seizing every chance to grow in Your love and to make a difference in the world around us. In Jesus' name we pray. 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.*

RECOGNITION AND THANK YOU Youth remain in front pew.

(The youth are excused for Church school)

OFFERING

As we have heard this morning, God calls us to step out in faith and embrace the opportunities He places before us. Our giving today is one such opportunity – a chance to invest in His Kingdom, to support the work of this church, and to be a part of bringing His love and hope to others. Let us give with thankful hearts knowing that our gifts support these vital opportunities. Now is an opportunity to invest in the ongoing ministry of this church, which provides a space for us to learn, grow in faith, and be equipped to reach out to the world around us. We will now receive our Sunday morning offering.



OFFERTORY

Great is thy Faithfulness
Senior Choir

Craig Courtney

***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**

Loving Lord, we offer these gifts as a symbol of our trust in Your provision and our desire to be partners with You in Your mission. Thank You for the opportunity to contribute to the work of Your church, a place where we learn to step out in faith and embrace the opportunities You set before us. Bless these offerings, Lord, and multiply their impact. May they be used to encourage others to take their own leaps of faith, to discover their gifts, and to use them for Your glory. Help us to be faithful stewards of all that You have entrusted to us, recognizing every opportunity as a chance to honor You and serve our neighbors. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE



Ephesians 5:1,2;15-21
Matthew 14:22-33

Pew Bible pg. 951
Pew Bible pg. 796

SERMON *Unlocking Your Potential: Embracing God's Opportunities with Faith and Gratitude*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH *Joys & Concerns Read... Moment of Silence... Pastoral Prayer*

***HYMN** *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God* Pilgrim (Red) #481

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *May the Lord Bless You*
Senior Choir

***POSTLUDE** *Rondo Exultate* Margaret Tucker

The Worship is Ended...Our Service Now Begins