



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

**April 6, 2025 ~ 10:00 a.m.  
Fifth Sunday in Lent**



*You will be blessed the moment you realize you already are.*

*~Bryant McGill, author*

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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

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*\*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**

*Pie Jesu*

John Rutter (Requiem)

*{During the prelude silently send Christ's Joy, Peace, & Love, to others in the church & to God's world}*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

From the quiet corners of our homes to the wide expanse of God's creation, blessings surround us. We see the budding life of spring, a promise of renewal.

**The gentle breeze whispers its song, a reminder of the Holy Spirit's constant presence and we sense a stirring of hope within our hearts.**

Even in the quiet moments, blessings abound, waiting to be noticed.

**Our eyes and hearts are open to witness the blessings in our lives.**

As we prepare our hearts for the solemn journey of Holy Week, let us first acknowledge the abundant grace that fills our lives.

**Let us give thanks as we begin our worship to the God of all blessings.**

**\*HYMN**

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

Pilgrim (Red) #478

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

**Loving God, may we be constantly mindful of the abundant grace that flows freely into our lives. We thank You for the simple gifts that brighten our days – the warmth of the morning sun, the laughter of friends, the beauty of the natural world that surrounds us. Open our eyes, Lord, to see Your hand at work in the ordinary, to hear Your voice in the gentle whispers of nature, and**

to feel Your love in the kindness of those around us. As we turn our hearts towards the profound sacrifice and love that Holy Week reveals, may our gratitude for Your abundant grace strengthen our faith and deepen our understanding of Your ultimate gift. Prepare our hearts, we pray, to receive the fullness of Your love, now and forevermore. Amen.

*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**

May our giving be an act of worship, a recognition of God's faithfulness and grace. Just as we count our blessings and find them overflowing, let our giving be an expression of our gratitude, a way to share those blessings and extend God's love to others, both within our church and beyond. We will now receive our Sunday morning offering.



### **OFFERTORY**

*In this Moment of Remembrance*  
Senior Choir

Dale Wood

### **\*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**

Generous God, we offer these gifts today with hearts filled with thankfulness for all that You have given us. Bless these offerings, we pray, that they may be used to further Your work through our church, into our community and throughout the world.

## SCRIPTURE



1 John 3:1-3  
Ephesians 1:3-14

Pew Bible pg. 990  
Pew Bible pg. 949

**SERMON**      *A Tapestry of Blessings: Preparing for Holy Week with Grateful Hearts*

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**    *Joys & Concerns (read) ~ Moment of Silence ~ Pastoral Prayer*  
*Meditative Music from the Choir Loft*

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Prayer over the Elements

Serving of the Elements

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Blessed are we Lord for filling us with Your presence, a flame of love that warms our hearts and renews our spirits. May this holy meal flow through us into the world. Make us beacons of light radiating Your compassion and grace lifting praise to Your Holy Name. This we pray nourished by Your love. Amen**

**\*HYMN**                      *Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing*                      Pilgrim (Red), #63

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**      *The Lord Be with You*  
Senior Choir

**\*POSTLUDE**      *Blessings and Honor and Glory and Power*                      (O Quanta Qualia)  
Arr. Robert Powell

*The Worship is Ended...Our Service Now Begins*