



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

May 25, 2025 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

In Person & Live Streamed



Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ~John 15:13

184 Cherry Brook Road, PO Box 133, Canton Center, CT 06020-0133
Office 860-693-4581 E-mail: office@cantoncenterchurch.org
www.cantoncenterchurch.org

~ 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 *Anthem* Benny Anderson, Tim Rice, Bjorn Ulvaeus from the musical Chess
Jerry Alonzy-soloist

{During the prelude feel God's love and peace surround you}

CALL TO WORSHIP

Today, we pause to remember the fallen, those who gave
their lives for the sake of our freedoms.

**We gather with grateful hearts,
remembering those who paid the ultimate price.**

Their sacrifice echoes through the generations, a testament to courage and commitment.
Yet more than remembrance alone, we can honor their memory
by actively working for the ideals they served.

**Let us dedicate ourselves to building a society that
reflects justice, equality, and peace.**

**Our loving God calls us to remember the past
and strive for a better future.**

Let us open our hearts to the Spirit of unity and purpose,
as we worship the God of justice and peace.

Let us lift our hearts and voices to the Lord in worship.

*HYMN

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

Pilgrim (red) #440

*GATHERING PRAYER & *THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Gracious God, on this Memorial Day Weekend, we come before You with
hearts both heavy with remembrance as well as filled with gratitude for our
men and women who paid the ultimate price for our freedoms. In memory of**

this greatest act of heroism to our nation, we ask for Your guidance to translate our gratitude into action. Open our eyes to envision how we can help meet the needs of our community, open our hearts to respond with compassion and strength in working together for a more just and equitable society. Unite us, O God, in the work of creating a society that truly honors the cost of our freedoms, a society where peace and justice stand on the front lines of our community and nation, not our men and women. In unity, strengthen our resolve to move forward together, guided by Your Spirit. 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.*

(The youth are excused for Church school)

A TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

OFFERING



OFFERTORY

My Country 'Tis of Thee (America) Samuel Smith
Jim Todd-soloist

***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**

Gracious and generous God, we offer these gifts with hearts filled with gratitude for Your abundant blessings. May these offerings be used to further Your work in our community and beyond, to bring hope to the needy, justice to the oppressed, and peace to a world that longs for it. We pray that You will bless these gifts and multiply their impact, that through them, we may actively participate in building a society worthy of the sacrifices we remember today. Amen.

SCRIPTURE



Isaiah 25:1; 26:2-4, 12
John 15:9-13

Pew Bible pg. 568
Pew Bible pg. 878

SERMON

Beyond the Battlefield: Building on this Sacred Foundation

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns
Moment of Silence
Pastoral Prayer

***HYMN**

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

Pilgrim (Red) #443

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Amen

***POSTLUDE**

Like an Eagle

Carl Strommen

THE WORSHIP IS ENDED



OUR SERVICE NOW BEGINS