



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

May 4, 2025 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Third Sunday of Easter



*True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance.
It is far deeper than that: it is spiritual transaction with the
Creator of Heaven and Earth. ~Charles Spurgeon*

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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.

Children begin in Church School returning for Holy Communion

PRELUDE

Be Still My Soul

Finlandia Jean Sibelius arr. Cathy Moglebust

{During the prelude silently offer a prayer for another in our church family}

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather each week with our church family knowing we are not meant to walk our faith journeys in isolation.

**We are grateful for the bonds of community
and the strength we find in one another.**

Just as we lift our voices in song and hear the Word proclaimed, so too do we lift one another in prayer, sharing joys and burdens together.

**We embrace the power of intercession,
lifting our hearts and voices on behalf of others.**

May the warmth of shared prayer bind us together, strengthening our hearts and connecting us more deeply to God's grace.

May our prayers rise as a sweet offering, uniting us in God's love.

**Let us worship our Heavenly Creator who calls us into
community and empowers us through prayer.**

*HYMN

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Pilgrim (Red) #335

*GATHERING PRAYER & *THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gracious God, we gather in Your presence this morning, mindful of the many voices that fill our minds. We thank You for the bidding us to be still, to quiet our hearts and minds so that we may truly know You. The spirit of prayer that

we embraced this past week celebrating National Day of Prayer reminds us of the power of turning our hearts together towards God. We lift up our church, our community, and our nation. Strengthen us to not only speak but also to listen for Your gentle guidance, finding solace and strength in Your unwavering love. 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.*

(The youth are excused for Church school)

OFFERING



OFFERTORY



Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Jamaican Folk Melody
arr. Bradley Ellinghow

***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 God, we offer these gifts today with hearts both grateful and hopeful. May these offerings be a reflection of our desire to listen to Your call and to actively participate in Your work in the world. Place, we pray, Your blessing on these gifts that they may be used to nurture our church, community, and to extend Your love to those in need. Just as we find strength and unity in shared prayer, may these offerings become instruments of connection and care, reaching out with compassion and grace. We dedicate these gifts, and ourselves, to Your service, trusting that You will multiply our efforts and use them to bring hope and healing. Amen.

SCRIPTURE



1 Samuel 3:3-10

Pew Bible pg. 215

James 5:13-18

Pew Bible pg. 983

SERMON

Community Prayer: Lifting One Another Up

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH *Joys & Concerns - 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

Go in Peace

Chalice (Blue) #445 (2x)

*BENEDICTION

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

Judy Hunnicutt

*POSTLUDE

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J. S. Bach

THE WORSHIP IS ENDED  ***OUR SERVICE NOW BEGINS***