



# THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

**June 1, 2025 ~ 10:00 a.m.**

**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

**In Person & Live Streamed**



*People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did,  
but people will never forget how you made them feel. ~Maya Angelou*

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## ~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

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*\*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

*Sing the Beauty of the Earth*

Douglas Wagner

*During the prelude an acolyte will light our altar candles*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Loving Lord God, on this day, we are reminded of the power of our words.

**Open our hearts to kindness and our lips to praise.**

For God has spoken creation into being,  
and through Christ, has spoken love into our lives.

**May we echo that love in all we say and do.**

**Let us now worship the One who calls us to encourage and to bless.**

### \*HYMN

*Morning Has Broken*

Pilgrim (Red) #38

### \*GATHERING PRAYER

Gracious and loving God, we gather in Your presence this morning, with hearts full of gratitude and expectation. We thank You for the gift of this new day, and for the opportunity to come together as Your beloved community. On this *National Say Something Nice Day*, we are particularly mindful of the power of our speech. Open our ears to hear Your voice, and our hearts to speak words of grace, encouragement, and truth. Help us to see the good in one another, and to reflect Your light in all our interactions. May our worship be pleasing in Your sight, and may our lives be a testament to Your boundless love. We pray this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 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.*

**CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATING SENIORS**

**OFFERING**

Gracious God, we thank You for the abundance You pour into our lives — not just in material blessings, but in the gift of communication, connection, and community. On this *Say Something Nice Day* we bring these offerings before You: our tithes and gifts, our time and talents, and indeed, the very words we speak. Bless these gifts to further our ministries of healing, hope, and compassion, spreading Your good news in both word and deed. We dedicate ourselves and the offerings we present today in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We will now receive our Sunday morning offering.



**OFFERTORY**

*Speak, O Lord*  
Senior Choir



Keith Getty / Stuart Townend

**\*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**

God of love, we offer You these gifts today from the depths of our hearts. We pray that You would use them to make a real difference in the world, just as kind words can make a real difference in a life. Bless our offerings and bless us, Your people, that all we say and do, and all that these gifts accomplish, would bring honor and glory to Your name. May our lives, and the resources we dedicate, truly 'say something nice' about Your boundless love. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE



Proverbs 15:1-7, 23  
Ephesians 4:25-32

Pew Bible pg. 521  
Pew Bible pg. 951

## SERMON

*The Power in Our Words*

## 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

*Go in Peace*

Chalice (Blue) #445 (2x)

## \*BENEDICTION

## \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*How Can I Keep from Singing*  
Senior Choir

## \*POSTLUDE

*Laudate Dominum (Sing Praise)*

W. A. Mozart

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