



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

May 24, 2026 ~ 10:00 a.m.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

In Person & Live Streamed

Sermon: *Not Just a Command ~ A Companion*



*Bethlehem was God with us, Calvary was God for us, and Pentecost is God in us.
~Robert Baer, author*

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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

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

CHIMES

Medley of Armed Forces Songs

Karen Needham & Mary Lou Keefe

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.

PRELUDE

In Flanders Fields

John McCrae music by Jacobson & Emerson

Paul Stansel - Soloist

Lighting of the altar candles by the acolyte

CALL TO WORSHIP

People of God, today is not a quiet day. Today is a WIND-SHAKING, FIRE-FALLING, SPIRIT-MOVING day!

Let the Holy Spirit ignite our hearts!

On this Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate that God's fire doesn't fall on the perfect, but on everyday people just like us.

We come as we are, trusting the Spirit who meets us where we are.

On Sinai, God spoke from the mountain. On Pentecost, God spoke through His people. Today, that same Spirit is speaking here, now, in us.

We are ready to be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Lift your voices, lift your hearts, lift your expectations, because the God who once said, "Here is what you must do," now says, "Here is the power to do it!"

Holy Spirit, we welcome You to ignite our hearts again. Let the fire of Pentecost burn bright in this place today!

*HYMN

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

Pilgrim (Red) #443

*GATHERING PRAYER & *THE LORD'S PRAYER

Holy Spirit, You who filled the disciples with courage and joy, come and fill us now. We too often live as though faith depends on our strength alone. We carry burdens You never asked us to carry. We try to fulfill commands without receiving Your companionship. Breathe on us again. Write Your life on our hearts. Empower us to love as Jesus loves, to serve as Jesus serves, and to walk in the freedom of Your presence. In Jesus' name, 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)

OFFERING

Mother Teresa once said, *It is not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving.* We give not because God demands it from a mountain, but because the Spirit empowers us from within. We give not out of obligation, but out of gratitude. Not out of fear, but out of freedom. Let our offering today be an act of Spirit-filled love.



OFFERTORY



America the Beautiful
Senior Choir

Samuel Ward arr. Buryl Red

***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, with hearts thankful to You, we offer these gifts today! They are a joyful tribute of Your own incredible generosity that surrounds us every day. May these offerings be used with Your blessings to spread Your love and make a positive impact to those in need. With thankful hearts we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE



Deuteronomy 5:1,22-24

Acts 2:1-8,12

Matthew 7:24-27

SERMON

Not Just a Command ~ A Companion



Silent Meditation

Pastoral Prayer

*HYMN

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

Pilgrim (Red) #440

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE Amen

Grant Us Thy Peace

Senior Choir

hymn tune Ellers arr. Floyd E. Werle

*POSTLUDE

The Washington Post

John Philip Sousa

Worship is ended ~ Our Service Now Begins

DID YOU KNOW....We send out “WEEKLY EMAIL REMINDERS”

If you would like to receive weekly emails about our upcoming Sunday Worship and reminders of events and happenings for the week ahead, please email the church office at office@cantoncenterchurch.org or call 860-693-4581.