



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

July 19, 2026 ~ 9:00 a.m.

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

In Person & Live Streamed



Shared joy is a double joy; shared sorrow is half a sorrow. ~Swedish Proverb

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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.

PRELUDE

Bless the Lord My Soul

JS Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

Today we come to celebrate God's gift of Joy, a joy that stays even on Mondays.

Lord, give us joy that lasts all week long!

Whether we came in laughing, testy, or somewhere in between, God meets us with joy.

Your joy lifts us, strengthens us, and carries us, Lord!

Joy isn't something we wait to feel, it's something God pours into us when we draw near.

So, let's worship with glad hearts, open spirits, and smiles that remind the world who we belong to.

Let us worship with gratitude, with hope, and with joy that overflows.

We worship You, God of joy! Let Your joy rise in us today!

***HYMN**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Pilgrim (Red) #8

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

Holy, Merciful, and Loving God, thank You for the gift of joy that only You can give. Not the joy that flickers with circumstances, but the joy that stays because it is rooted in Your presence. As we worship today, let Your joy settle into our hearts, calm our worries, and brighten our spirits. Let Your joy rise within us like morning light, steady and strong. Fill this place with Your Presence that Your joy may strengthen us, sustain us, and shine through us. 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.*

OFFERING

Joyful people are generous people, not because they have to be, but because joy can't help itself. One of the beautiful things about joy is that it doesn't like to sit still, it overflows. Joy opens our hands, lifts our spirits, and reminds us that everything we have is a gift from God. When God fills us with joy, it naturally spills into generosity, kindness, and giving. As we give today, let's give with the kind of joy that makes heaven smile, the kind of joy that says, "Lord, thank You for trusting me with the blessings I have from You." Today, as we bring our offerings, we're not giving out of pressure. We're giving out of joy, joy for what God has done, joy for what God is doing, and joy for what God will do through this church. Let this moment be a celebration of the God who gives us joy that stays and hearts that give freely. We will now receive our Sunday morning offering.



OFFERTORY



His Eye Is on the Sparrow
Soloist ~ Judy Robinson

Arr. Mark Hayes - Music Charles Gabriel

***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, receive these offerings as expressions of our joy in You. Let them become joy for others, joy in a meal, joy in a helping hand, joy in a word of hope, joy in a life changed. Fill us with joy that stays, joy that gives, and joy that reflects Your heart. Bless these gifts and bless the givers, that Your joy may remain in us and overflow to the world. Amen.

SCRIPTURE



Psalm 16:7-11
1 Peter 1:6-9

SERMON

Joy That Stays

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH



Moment of Silence
Pastoral Prayer

***HYMN**

How Great Our Joy!

Chalice (Blue) #170

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** **Amen**

***POSTLUDE**

Folk Melody based on Pleading Savior

arr. Howard Helvey

Worship is ended ~ Our Service Now Begins