



**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
CANTON CENTER, CT
July 5, 2026 ~ 9:00 a.m.
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
In Person & Live Streamed**



*Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people.
It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other. ~John Adams*

*Liberty cannot be established without morality, nor morality without faith.
~Alexis de Tocqueville*

*The Gospel is not a doctrine of horizontal expansion, but a vertical breakthrough.
~ Karl Barth*

*The heavy chain of sin is broken not by our striving, but by His giving.
Jubilee is the sound of God doing for us what we could never do for ourselves.
~Charles Spurgeon*

*The kingdoms of this world police the behavior of the old creation using force and law.
The Kingdom of God transforms the heart of the new creation using grace and truth.
~ Dallas Willard*

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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

In Remembrance

Ragan Courtney, Buryl Red, Bill Ingram

CALL TO WORSHIP

In a world of noise, God invites us into a sacred stillness.

We come away from the parades and the celebrations to find rest.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us, calling us to a sacred task.

We gather to see what true liberty looks like in the light of Scripture.

Come, let us worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.

Let us worship God together!

*HYMN

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

Pilgrim (Red) #440

*GATHERING PRAYER & *THE LORD'S PRAYER

Almighty God, You are the source of all true freedom. We thank You for the generations who have sought justice and defended liberty before us. Yet we know that human systems can only do so much. By Your Holy Spirit, open our hearts to the message of Your true, eternal Jubilee, so that we may not only hear Your word but live it out in the world showing forgiveness, loving our enemies, and shining with the light of Christ. Guide our worship today, that it may be pleasing to You. 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.*

ANTHEM

The Prayer

Carol Bayer Sager & David Foster

Judy Robinson & Jerry Alonzy

OFFERING

In the biblical year of Jubilee, God reminds you and me of a fundamental truth: everything ultimately belongs to God. Our time, our resources, and our lives are gifts from a generous Creator. Political liberty allows us to possess things, but Gospel liberty frees us from being possessed by things. In a spirit of hope and gratitude for the freedom we have in Christ, let us present our Sunday morning offerings.



OFFERTORY



Anthem from musical "Chess"

Benny Anderson, Tim Rice, & Bjorn Ulvaeus

Soloist ~ Jerry Alonzy

***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**

Lord God, we dedicate these offerings to the work of Your church. May we be good stewards and use these resources to welcome the marginalized, support the oppressed, and share the Good News of Jesus' teachings and salvation. May our lives proclaim Your liberty not just with words, but through our actions. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE



Micah 6:6-8
Luke 4:1-2,16-21

SERMON

What Does Liberty Look Like?

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Silent Meditation

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

*HYMN

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

Pilgrim (Red) #443

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE **Amen**

*POSTLUDE

In My Father's House

Pamela Martin, Craig Courtney

Worship is ended ~ Our Service Now Begins

