



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

September 13, 2026 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

In Person & Live Streamed



The Joy of the Lord is My
Strength

Nehemiah 8:10

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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

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

CHIMES

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.

RINGING OF THE BELL

Our Youth

PRELUDE

We are the Children of Light

Hal Hopson

(During the prelude take a moment to breathe out life's distractions and open your heart to the loving Spirit of Almighty God.)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, people of God, gather in this September light, where summer's warmth meets the promise of a new year.

God is tuning us for harmony ahead.

Come with your voices, your hopes, your questions, your joy. The choir has returned, the children are gathering, the sanctuary is awake with a new season of wonder and excitement.

We come into this place of gathering and renewal from quiet summer days. God calls us together to sing, to learn, to grow, and to rejoice.

Let us worship with grateful hearts and open spirits.

Let us worship with joy and praise to the Glory of God.

*HYMN

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Pilgrim (Red) #478

*GATHERING PRAYER & *THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gracious God, You meet us at the doorway of a new season. Open our ears to Your music, open our hearts to Your joy, open our minds to Your teaching. Bless our choir as they lead us in music, our congregation as we serve, and our children as they learn and laugh. Shape us into one community of love. 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.*

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUTH

OFFERING



OFFERTORY



Questions
Senior Choir

Russell Nagy

***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 gifts as a sign of our gratitude and our hope. Bless these gifts and bless the hands that offer them. Let our giving become a song of unity - as choir, congregation, and children come together, for a shared purpose. May these offerings bring light, wonder, and hope to all who enter this place. In Christ's name, Amen.

SCRIPTURE



Psalm 96:1-2, 11-12

Matthew 18:1-5

SERMON

When the Choir Soars and the Children Roars

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH



*Moment of Silence
Pastoral Prayer*

*HYMN

Jesus Loves Me

*We will sing the first verse (most know it and the refrain)
holding hands in a circle around the outside church aisles.*

*When we are finished singing each person may share one word
(joy, hope, love, etc.) or pass their turn by lightly squeezing the person's hand to your right*

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE Amen

The Lord Be With You

Charles Vanerell

Senior Choir

{Please remain quietly in your pew until the Benediction Response concludes}

*POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune

Jean Mouret

Worship is ended ~ Our Service Now Begins