



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

September 20, 2026 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
In Person & Live Streamed



*Jesus says, the wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it,
but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.
So, it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”
Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”*

~Let's explore together~

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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.

PRELUDE

Make a Joyful Noise

Patti Brennan

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, people of God, come with your questions, your hopes, your uncertainties, your searching.

We come with parts of life that make sense and other parts that leave us puzzled.

God hears our prayer of misunderstanding, whether it is in our daily lives or in our confusion of hearing God's Word.

We ask God to guide us from confusion toward clarity, from hesitancy toward trust, and from darkness to Light.

Brothers and Sisters, God welcomes our wondering and meets us in the places where understanding grows.

Let us worship the One who teaches gently, who turns confusion into discovery and questions into deeper faith.

*HYMN

Open My Eyes, That I May See

Chalice (Blue) #586

*GATHERING PRAYER & *THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gracious Lord, we come today with a mix of feelings: some confident, some questioning, some searching. Meet us in all of it. Open our hearts to Your quiet wisdom. Help us listen for Your Spirit in our confusion and trust Your presence in our uncertainty. Where we are unsure, bring peace. Lead us by Your Spirit into deeper trust and deeper understanding. 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.*

MISSION MOMENT

Hands of Grace

Linda McAllister

OFFERING



OFFERTORY



Great Is Thy Faithfulness
Senior Choir

Craig Courtney

***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, from Your abundance we have received, and from our gratitude we now give. We ask that You bless these offerings that they become music in the life of this church. May they provide strength for our ministries, welcome for the searching, learning for our children, and encouragement for all who gather here. In Christ's name we dedicate all we offer. Amen.

SCRIPTURE



John 3:1-10

SERMON

When Understanding Feels Dark — Step into The Light

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH



*Moment of Silence
Pastoral Prayer*

*HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

Pilgrim (Red) #391

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE Amen

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

*POSTLUDE

Prelude and Fugue in D Minor

JS Bach

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.