



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

September 27, 2026 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

In Person & Live Streamed



A lot of people will look at you but only a few will see you.

~C.C. Aurel

There's knowing someone at the surface, what the world knows, and knowing them at the core.

~Jonathon Muncy Storm, is an American writer

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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

Adagio Cantabile

Felix Mendelssohn

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome to this sacred space, where no one is a stranger, and every heart is known to God.

We often pass by one another quietly, carrying burdens and joys unseen.

Today, God invites us deeper, beyond the surface, beyond casual words, into true holy connection.

Teach us to listen with kindness and love with intention.

Let us draw near to God, that we may learn to draw near to one another.

Open our eyes, O God, to see one another as You see us. Let us worship God together!

*HYMN

All Creatures of Our God and King

Pilgrim (Red) #64

*GATHERING PRAYER & *THE LORD'S PRAYER

Holy and gracious God, You meet us on our every journey; the joyful ones, the weary ones, the uncertain ones. Yet so often we fail to recognize You. Open our eyes this morning to Your quiet presence. Open our ears to the wisdom You speak through Scripture and open our hearts to the grace You reveal in the lives of those who journey beside us. Teach us to listen without assuming, to learn without judgment, and to love without hesitation. Make this hour a time of awakening, a time of deepening, a time of holy recognition. In Christ's 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

Our giving in many ways helps others recognize Christ through our ministries, in our conversations, and in our personal and congregational stories. When we give, we make space for grace. We make room for compassion. We make possible the work of seeing beyond the surface and discovering Christ. As you give your offering trust that God will use them to open eyes, deliver hope, and to deepen the bonds of love with all people. Let us now receive our Sunday morning offering.



OFFERTORY



Shall We Gather at the River incorporating Deep River ~ John Carter
Senior Choir

***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 and Holy God, You do not measure our gifts by outward appearance, scale, or grand gestures, but by the love and devotion of our hearts. Receive our offerings as tokens of our gratitude and trust in You; as a joy-filled response to Your abundant grace. As we offer these monetary gifts, we also dedicate our hands, feet, and voices to Your service. May our lives continuously reflect the generous grace we have received. Send us out into the world to be Your love in action. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

SCRIPTURE



1 Samuel 6:7-13

SERMON

Seeing Beyond the Surface

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH



Moment of Silence
Pastoral Prayer

*HYMN

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Pilgrim (Red) #363

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE Amen

Senior Choir

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

*POSTLUDE

Grand Chorus in Bb

Theodore Dubois

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.