



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

October 11, 2026 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

In Person & Live Streamed



I cannot do all the good that the world needs. But the world needs all the good that I can do.

~Jana Stanfield, speaker, songwriter

Somewhere along the way, we must learn that there is nothing greater than to do something for others.

~Martin Luther King Jr.

Our prime purpose in this life is to help others. And if you can't help them, at least don't hurt them.

~Dalai Lama

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

~ Leo Buscaglia

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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

God of Glory, Lord of Love

Mary McDonald

(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, for Christ welcomes us with open arms.

We come to receive God's grace and share God's love.

God calls us to open our hearts and see our neighbors in need.

**The world is filled with people longing for hope, kindness,
and compassion. We follow our Lord who teaches us to love and
serve.**

Come and worship the One who calls us to be neighbors to one another; to follow Christ in love, compassion, and service.

**We come ready to listen, learn, and serve, worshipping the One whose
love knows no boundaries.**

*HYMN

For All the Saints

Chalice (Blue) #637

*GATHERING PRAYER & *THE LORD'S PRAYER

Merciful God, you see those whom the world often overlooks and you welcome those who long for hope. As we gather in worship, open our hearts to Your presence and our eyes to the needs around us. Fill us with your compassion, that we may reflect Your love in all we say and do. 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.*

Youth will be dismissed for Church School

OFFERING

Every gift we offer today is an opportunity to extend Christ's love beyond these walls. Through our giving, ministries are strengthened, neighbors are cared for, and hope is shared with those who need it most. Let us give with grateful hearts, trusting that God can use even the smallest gift to make a difference.



OFFERTORY



For the Music of Creation
Senior Choir

Shirley Murray / Lloyd Larson

***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**

Loving God, receive these offerings as signs of our gratitude and faith. Use them to strengthen Your church, serve our neighbors, and share Christ's love in places where hope is needed most.

MISSION MOMENT

Susan B. Anthony Project

SCRIPTURE



Matthew 25:31-46

SERMON

Welcome the Stranger, Welcome Christ

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH



Moment of Silence
Pastoral Prayer

*HYMN

They'll Know We Are Christians

Chalice (Blue) #494

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE Amen

From Whose Abundant Stores from the "Seasons" by Haydn
Senior Choir

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

*POSTLUDE

Fantasia in C

George Handel

Worship is ended ~ Our Service Now Begins

Worship Leader: Rev. Kurt Satherlie

Director of Music: Mary Lou Keefe

Sexton: Walt LeGeyt

Duty Deacons: Beth Lingenheld & Paul Stansel

Duty Trustees: Sue Lampros & Bob Howson

Ministers: Every Member

Dir. of Faith Formation: Jody Swan

Office Manager: Christine Motasky

Greeters: Bob Howson & Larry Smith

Coffee Hour: Trustees