

ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 29, 2020

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Second Congregational Church in Wilton,
United Church of Christ

**WELCOME to the worship of God at the
Second Congregational Church in Wilton,
United Church of Christ.
We are glad you are here today!**

*Bold print means congregational participation.
An asterisk (*) indicates to please stand, if you are able.*

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The prophet asks: Can our soul-weary bones live again?

People: O God, you know!

Leader: We ask: Can we dance again after mourning, loss and grief?

People: O God, you know!

Leader: The gift is sure and unmistakable:

People: God's breath poured out as new life for weary souls!

Leader: Let us celebrate the gift of God's new life,

People: And come to worship God in laughter and dancing!

INVOCATION

Compassionate God,
the wind of your Spirit is the very sign of life
for all who long for you.
One breath from you and we are rescued
from the arid valley of dry bones,
given muscles and sinews and joy with which to praise you,
and filled with the holy hope you grant to all your faithful children.
Let our whole lives be filled with the life-breath of the Spirit,
that what has lain dormant may burst into bloom,
and what looks to us to be death
may be revealed as but sleep

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Revitalizing God,
your power goes far beyond our own,
and yet still we act as though the pains of this world
have final claim upon us.
We give in to the despair and hopelessness of death,
not trusting in your ability
to call forth new life from the tombs of our lives.
Forgive us for doubting your power to raise up
new life in the midst of all the deaths we experience.
Forgive us for wanting to limit you
to “the last day” or “the world beyond this one”,
not trusting you to move and act among us, within us, through us.
Forgive us, and open our eyes to the wonder
of new life sprouting into being in our very midst.

SILENT PRAYER ... in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: “Come out,” Jesus calls,
and his word unbinds us from the oppressive weight of our past
and pushes away the rocks that close us off from love.
We are made free in the spirit of God, and forgiven all our sins.
People: **May God’s name always be praised from our lips!**

*GLORIA PATRI Tune: GREATOREX

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.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

ENGAGING THE WORD

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

John 11:1-45

SERMON

“How Shall We Live?”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 trespasses
s we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*CALL TO OFFERING

I would ask that we continue to give as we are able in these different/difficult times,
so that we may serve this church and the greater community.

GOING WITH THE WORD

*BENEDICTION (*adapted from Ephesians 5: 9-14*)

**Come out! Jesus commands,
And calls us from the tombs of our existence
into the brightness of a new day.
Come out! Jesus cries,
And unbinds us from the chains of our past.
Come out! Jesus calls,
And entices us into a world filled with grace and possibility.
So:
Go out!
Into a world that needs our life, our breath, our spirit!
Go out!
Into a world that needs the Spirit of God,
carried on our lips and in our loving arms.
Go out!
Into the world to live as God's resurrected people!
Go out: and go on the breath of God's holy wind!**

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor Kerry Richardson (Interim Pastor)

All the Congregation, Ministers to the World



A WARM WELCOME TO ALL GUESTS! If you are visiting us, we offer you a special welcome and invite you to stay for refreshments in the Parish Hall after worship. We would love to have you join us! Please sign our visitor's book, and if you are seeking a place to live out your faith, would like more information about this community of faith, or want to talk with someone about who we are and what we do, please speak with Pastor Kerry or one of the Deacons.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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