

ORDER OF WORSHIP

April 26, 2020

Third Sunday Of Easter

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 (*inspired by Acts 2: 14a, 36-24; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Luke 24:13-35*)

Leader: Travelers on the Way, what shall we do?

People: **We shall praise God
who hears our prayers,
who draws near to us,
and brings new life out of death.**

Leader: Dear Ones, how shall we live?

People: **With the confidence of God's beloved children,
with security and joy of God's saving grace.**

Leader: Friends old and new, what is the promise?

People: **New life, forgiveness of sin, the Spirit as gift!**

Leader: Beloved Siblings, how shall we praise?

People: **We lift our voices and our hearts in love, thanks, and praise!
We will praise the Lord as long as we live!**

INVOCATION

Loving God, we welcome your living presence in our midst.
Share our joy and our thanks for the life you give us.
Sing with us! Dance among us! Pray with us!
Shower us with your love! **Amen!**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Luke 24:13-35)

Heavenly Stranger, our Companion on the Way,
we yearn for your love and grace. We seek your wisdom and guidance.
We relish the joy which burns within our hearts when you are with us.
Yet, sometimes we would cling to you,
hoard the blessings of relationship with you,
and not share your love with others.
Forgive us, Dear One.

Remind us that your love is to be carried throughout the world.
Press us to share the hope and joy of your love,
so that someone who hungers for spiritual food
may be filled by our witness to your grace.
Shine the light of your Spirit through us,
so that we may show your Way to those who long for peace

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

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God may come to us, unrecognized, as a stranger.
The Risen Christ reaches out to us in unexpected ways
as we travel our own Emmaus roads.
May the Word of our Stillspeaking God
continue to burn in our hearts.

*GLORIA PATRI Tune: GREATORIX

**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

Luke 24:13-35

SERMON

“Just a Closer Walk”

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
as 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.**

***INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (1 Peter 1:22-23)**

The author of 1 Peter implores us to love one another deeply *from the heart*, and assures us that we have been born anew *through the living and enduring word of God*.
In our giving today, let us give, not out of obligation, but *from the heart*.
Let our gifts be seeds of *the living and enduring word of God*, that will sprout in abundance of justice and hope all that is necessary for life, for sisters and brothers here at hand, and around the world.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Jesus, God has made you both Sovereign and Christ.
Therefore we pray your blessing upon these gifts, upon us, and those whose lives will benefit from them.
May your victory over death empower all whom you call to trust in God.
In faith and hope we pray. **Amen.**

GOING WITH THE WORD

***BENEDICTION**

Friends, rejoice in the mothering and fathering love of God!
Rejoice in the victorious life of our Risen Savior!
Rejoice in the power of the Spirit!
Go, living in the love of Christ!
Go, serving in the name of Christ!
Let your love of God embrace
 Your children
 Your family
 Your enemies
 Those who are afar off
 Those who are strangers met on the road
May your lives praise the Lord!

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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