

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

April 12, 2020

Easter Day

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: We come to this place, seeking Jesus in the familiar story of our faith.

**People: Do not meet us only here, O Living Christ, but surprise us with Resurrection Power in all the places of our lives!**

Leader: We gather together to sing and pray the story we know by heart, a story of loving triumph and powerful grace.

**People: This story of "Alleluia!" means great joy for the One who lives and the ones who witness to this new life in all the places of our lives!**

Leader: We rejoice and thank you for the life of your son, resurrected by the power of your loving, vibrant Spirit.

**People: Let this same Spirit fill all the places of our lives, that we may know the truth of resurrection for the rest of our lives!**

Leader: We join our hearts in song and sing "Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!"  
for Christ is living and so are we!

**People: Alleluia indeed!**

#### INVOCATION

Good News God,  
your angels appeared to the faithful women of Jesus' company,  
bringing them news more wonderful and awe-inspiring than they could imagine -  
Christ is Risen!

Surely your angels can interrupt our lives, too,  
breaking into our losses and sorrows  
and offering a message of tremendous joy to change our lives!

Come this Easter morning, we pray,  
and fill us with the joy of the women disciples,  
the first witnesses to your resurrection,  
that our lives may also be renewed in hope and glory.

Let us roll back the stone of the grave  
and sing Alleluia once again!

In Christ we pray, **Amen.**

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess together...

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we confess to you  
that while we know well the story of your victory over the grave,  
it is not a story we always live.  
We are dragged down by all manner of death -  
Fear may suffocate us: the loss of dreams and hopes  
for ourselves, our families, our communities and our nation.  
Sorrow may wall us off like a grave,  
isolating us with anger, frustration, and grief.

### *Silence*

Yet the stories of our faith are inscribed  
not with the marks of death,  
but with the word, "Alleluia!"  
So on this Easter morning,  
we pray that you will fill us with "fear and great joy"  
so that, like those women who came to the tomb expecting death,  
we may instead find the radiant new life  
that is ever before us in your Resurrection! **Amen.**

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

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Just as Christ did not come to condemn but to liberate, so too is Christ raised from  
death not to judge but to celebrate. Cast off the yoke of sorrow and instead  
raise up the scepter of joy - Christ lives! We live!  
All is made new on this Resurrection morning!

**People: Alleluia and amen!**

\*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

Matthew 28:1-10

SERMON

"Rise Up"

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.**

### \*CALL TO OFFERING

We are witnesses to the power of the Holy Spirit and the glory of God,  
and now we turn in thanksgiving to share the good news  
of forgiveness and grace to all the world.  
Let these our gifts be a living testimony  
to those who most need the healing grace of Christ this morning,  
cornerstones of faith and joy for the entire world.

### \*DEDICATION

**O God, you have become our light and our salvation -  
let these gifts open the gates of joy  
to all who hunger and thirst for your holy presence  
on this and every day.  
May they bear the gifts of Alleluia which we hold so dear,  
and give away with great joy.  
We pray in the name of our Risen Savior, Jesus the Christ! Amen.**

## GOING WITH THE WORD

### \*BENEDICTION

Do not look for the risen Jesus only here,  
in the confines of this church building.  
**We will seek the risen Jesus on the roads and in the streets,  
in all the pathways and byways of our lives.**  
Do not seek comfort in the familiar, but dare to risk the unfamiliar -  
**We know that Resurrection makes all things new!**  
Do not cling to all the old, expected notions about God, Jesus, Spirit,  
but go forth and celebrate this truly new Good News:  
**Because Christ lives, new possibilities are ever before us!**  
Christ is Risen Indeed!  
**Alleluia and amen!**

## **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:**

Email for Church Administration

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