

ORDER OF WORSHIP
May 10, 2020
Fifth 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

Leader: Jesus said, I go and prepare a place for you, and I will come again.

People: **We gather in this place to know your presence and your love,
now and always.**

Leader: Jesus said, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. If you know me,
you know God.

People: **We pray to know you more deeply,
that we may know God more intimately, now and always.**

Leader: Jesus said, Ask me for anything, and I will do it.

People: **Help us to ask for the right things, Lord Jesus Christ,
that we may fulfill your will, now and always.**

Leader: Jesus said, Believe in me, and Follow me.

People: **Help us to worship you fully believing and following -
now and always!**

INVOCATION

Ever-gracious, Way-Making God,
we celebrate the gifts of your Spirit.
You have not fed us a diet of shame or shrinking,
but with the milk of your truth
you have made us strong and faithful servants of Christ.
You call us to take up the mantle of justice and to follow
wherever faith leads us.
You fill us with strength and hope,

and you invite us to share in the cost and joys of discipleship.
You promise us splendor and beauty in this life
and in the world to come.
Meet us here, we pray,
that your word will be fulfilled in our hearing
and that your Spirit will fill us with courage. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess together

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Ever-gracious God,
from generation to generation you call forth faithful women and men
to be willing servants of truth.
You fill us with strength and hope,
Yet we find it is often not enough.

We pray both for great faith and for easy lives,
But we know these things seldom exist together.

We pray only to avoid the time of trial
**When we need also to pray for strength and confidence
to face the challenges that come with faithfulness.
Forgive us, God, for our limited vision and our feeble trust.**

Make us strong like Stephen,
so that we may rejoice in your unending grace
even in the times of deepest suffering.
In Christ we pray. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

in the name of Jesus Christ, we pray Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Do not let your hearts be troubled,
but share instead in Stephen's vision of the heavens opened
and Christ standing at the right hand of God.
This glorious vision of hope is for all of us,
for we are forgiven of all that separates us from the Holy One.

**People: Blessed be God, the giver of life, and blessed be God's people,
who rejoice in Christ, the way, the truth and the life.**

***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 14:1-14

SERMON

“Is This All There Is?”

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

***CALL TO OFFERING**

We have tasted of the Lord's goodness and the sweetness is still on our lips.
Now we permit ourselves to be living vessels
of God's sweet, sweet Spirit, offering ourselves, our lives and our gifts
to those who are most in need of Christ's healing mercy.

***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.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God, bless these tithes and offerings,
that they may heal and make whole the lives of all your children.
And bless those who give and those who long to give,
that we may become living stones of mercy, grace and justice
in the house of your creation. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

***BENEDICTION**

Once you were not a people,
but now you are a people bound together in God's mercy
and united in Christ's service.
Depart from this place in peace and confidence,
to love and serve in the name of Jesus the Christ,
the living representation of God
- our way, our truth, our life. Amen.

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.



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