

ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 3, 2020

Fourth 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** (*after Psalm 23*)

Leader: Let us pray these familiar words,
recognizing in the Risen Christ our Good Shepherd:

People: **Jesus, you are our shepherd.
We shall never want.**

**You make us lie down in green pastures;
you lead us beside the still waters.
You restore our souls.**

**You guide us in the paths of righteousness for your name's sake.
Even though we may walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
we fear no evil, for you, Christ, comfort us.**

**Jesus has prepared a table for us
in the presence of our foes;
Jesus has anointed us with the oil of salvation;
our cup runs over!**

**Surely, goodness and mercy will follow us
all the days of our lives,
And we will dwell in the house
of our Holy Savior forever and ever. Amen.**

INVOCATION

Incarnate God,
You are the one who comes to us in Jesus Christ.
Holy One,
You are the one who comes to us in the Holy Spirit.
Sovereign of Earth and Heaven,
You are the one who calls us to recognize you today and every day
As splendid *Mystery*.
Gather our hearts and minds this day.
Kindle our God-consciousness.
Let us worship you in awe and wonder!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Merciful and Loving God, we ask forgiveness because our consciousness of you is dimmed by everyday desires and needs.

ALL: **Raise our consciousness of you, O God.**

One: We forget that we are a reflection of your image. We act as though you are a Sunday-only event.

ALL: **Increase our mindfulness of you, O God.**

One: Help us to a greater common awareness of your deep mystery and infinite presence.

ALL: **Rouse our awareness of you, God.**

One: Open our eyes from surface focus to depth perception. Turn our heads from shallow concerns to eternal truths.

ALL: **Awaken us from faint-heartedness, O God.**

One: Forgive us for our narrow and selfish ways. Save us from cheap grace with your amazing grace.

ALL: **Forgive us, O God. We ask in Jesus' precious name. Amen.**

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

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Holy, Forgiving God, we are your sheep.
You keep us awake and aware.
You can increase our God-consciousness every day of our lives.
Bless you and praise you for forgiving us when we are barely mindful enough to ask.
Help us to enter by the door when we hear the voice of the Good Shepherd.
We hear your voice of pardon.
Through Christ's grace we are forgiven this morning, and we go in. **Amen.**

*GLORIA PATRI Tune: GREATOR EX

**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 10:1-10

SERMON

"Enter Here"

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.

*OFFETORY PRAYER

Good Shepherd of the Sheep,
you have opened the door to new life for us
through your dedication and your sacrifice.
May we reflect your love for us
by opening the doors of our hearts to you and your church
in the act of giving our tithes and offerings.

*OFFETORY DEDICATION

Thank you, Risen Christ,
for moving the hearts of the people to give of themselves.
May our offerings of service and financial support
give voice to your work for justice and peace in this world.
May we grow more mindful of you through our giving and our living. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

*BENEDICTION *(from 1 Peter and John 10)*

- One: You are called for a purpose:
for the sake of knowing and drawing close toward God
a person bears up under sorrows.
- All: **We are not here by chance.**
- One: You are choice and precious in the sight of God,
and as living stones, your lives are being built up
Into a spiritual sanctuary where the justice and mercy and peace
of the Risen Christ may dwell.
- All: **We are not here by chance.**
- One: Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them,
and they follow me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish;
and no one will snatch them out of my hand.
- All: **Jesus, we are the sheep of your pasture.
You have chosen us. We have chosen you.
We are not here by chance. 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.

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