

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 24, 2020

Seventh 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** *(based on Ps 68, The Inclusive Bible translation)*

Leader: We shout for joy  
to God who rides upon the clouds!

**People:** *out loud, but muted*

**We sing praises to our awe-inspiring God,  
before whom the earth quakes,  
and whose abundant blessings provide for all in need!**

Leader: God is Sovereign over the earth,  
Defender of the defenseless, and Parent to orphans;  
God creates families for those who are alone.

**People:** *out loud, but muted*

**God leads captives to freedom  
and breaks the yoke of oppression.**

Leader: God goes forth before the people,  
arching through the wilderness of their lives,  
bringing forth restoration and justice.

**People:** *out loud, but muted*

**Sing praise to God,  
Rider of the ancient skies,  
who dwells in holiness.**

Leader: Proclaim the power of God!

**People:** *out loud, but muted*

**O God, how awesome you are in your sanctuary!  
You give power and strength to your people.**

Leader: Let us worship God!

## INVOCATION

God Most High, we gather to honor and glorify you.  
Receive our invitation to dwell with us.  
Enfold us in your presence and  
fill us again with holy awe and mystery.  
We are yours and we claim you as our God. **Amen.**

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess together...

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Blessed One, you created human beings  
for your glory and pleasure.  
Forgive us our anxiety in these troubled days,  
And empower in us your vision for a just and loving life in community.  
Forgive us for ignoring the prompting of your Spirit,  
your purpose for our lives, and for placing our will above yours.  
Grant us courage to share in Christ's sufferings, to be his witnesses, and  
to carry your loving compassion to a hurting world. **Amen.**

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

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

As the Body of Christ,  
we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to be Christ's witnesses.  
Each of us has our own story of what Jesus' life means for us.  
Through our life-stories we can convey hope to the hopeless,  
joy to the downtrodden, and peace where there is turmoil.  
Therefore, let us "clothe ourselves in humility,"  
sharing the Good News of Christ, that we "may all be one."  
In this God is well pleased.

\*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.**

## ENGAGING THE WORD

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

John 17:1-11

SERMON

"Jesus's Prayer for Us"

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

The author of the First Letter to Peter encourages us  
to humble ourselves before God  
so that we may be exalted by God on “the appointed day.”  
Let us share in today’s offering with humble spirits and generous hearts.

### \*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.**

### \*OFFERTORY DEDICATION

Ever-present and loving God,  
your Word tells us to cast our cares on you because you care for us.  
In faith and trust we present these gifts, and ourselves, to you.  
Bless and multiply them to meet the needs,  
both hidden and apparent, of your beloved ones.  
Inspire each of us to live as Christ’s witnesses,  
today and ever more.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

## GOING WITH THE WORD

### \*BENEDICTION

Continue to be faithful, remain committed, be witnesses for Christ.  
For the God of all grace has called you to eternal glory  
through Jesus Christ,  
and will fulfill, restore, strengthen, and establish you  
through suffering and struggle.  
Be empowered by Christ’s love,  
keeping Christ’s name on your lips,  
the Wisdom of the Holy Spirit in your mind,  
God’s love in your hearts,  
God’s beloved ones always in your sight, and  
God’s still speaking voice in your ear. **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:**

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