

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Third Sunday of Pentecost
June 21, 2020
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**

One: The sun shines more brightly.
Its warmth stays with us for so many more hours.

All: *Out loud but muted*
So we shake free of our routines.

One: In this new moment,
We wander about the wilderness:
Hoping God will open our eyes-
Praying God will make us worthy
Wanting to grow with God.

All: *Out loud but muted*
**Let us grow together in the
wild ways of our God.**

***HYMN** "Gather Us In"

INVOCATION (*Inspired by Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17*)

Wild God, you do great and wonderful things.
It's what makes you our God.
There is nothing else in this world like you.
There's nothing else like your love.
Wild God, come and worship with us.

Help us to grow in your love.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(inspired by Genesis 21:8-21)*

Have some strips of fabric or paper, large enough to write on and to weave together. bring pens or pencils which can be used on the fabric. write your name on one strip of fabric.

The pastor offers this invitation:

Abraham was very distressed.
Because his son, Ishmael, was cut out of the community.
Because Sarah could no longer tolerate Hagar.
So Sarah threw her out into the wilderness.
And this is distressing. We are distressed whenever relationships are broken.
Still, we confess to God that there are family and friends we have cast out.
Knowing this, you are invited to offer your silent confession to God by taking one of the small strips of cloth, writing the name of someone you have left behind in the wilderness and begin to weave or braid it together with the strip bearing your name.

Silence, while people write and braid

We also know that in times of crisis, such as Covid-19,
some communities are cut off from resources they need for survival,
Work, food, healthcare
They suffer disproportionately because of race, or poverty,
or lack of health insurance.
We confess that all too often
we fail to look beyond the boundaries of our own communities.
Knowing this, you are invited to offer your silent confession to God
by taking another of the small strips of cloth,
writing the name of a person or a community that is suffering
because they are cut off from what they need.
Weave or braid that piece of cloth onto the original strips.

Silence, while people write and braid

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The God of Hagar and Sarah, the God of Isaac and Ishmael
Continues to call us into community across boundaries,
providing water in the desert and the promise of a future.
Let us believe that grace is working in our lives,
Opening hearts, restoring justice, making all things new in Christ Jesus.

SPOKEN RESPONSE Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

All: out loud but muted

**Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The sharing of a common life is like to that above.**

**Before our God we come and pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our care.**

**We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear,
and from our hearts the strength will flow for justice made and shared.**

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.

ENGAGING THE WORD

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Matthew 10:24-39

SERMON

“Where Do You Meet Resistance?”

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 THE OFFERING

Our Wild God has helped and comforted us.
And it is so good! We will not be distressed. Not anymore!
We will work in this goodness to mend every broken branch on our family tree.
We will use our gifts, tithes and offerings to rebuild the body of Christ.
Let us give to the family that nurtures us in new growth

*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.***

DEDICATION PRAYER

Grow these gifts in your love, Wild God.
Bless our offerings, our hearts and our hopes in your love
To make us worthy of your work in this world.
Fill these gifts and each of us with your goodness. Amen.

*HYMN

Peace Like a River

*BENEDICTION

Beloved in Christ, into your hands God gives strength and worth.
Take another strip of cloth to weave into and to mend
the broken relationships in the body of Christ.
Trust that this wild world is full of God's steadfast love.
For you, dear servant, were made for this love.
Go in this deep peace.

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor Kerry Richardson (Interim Pastor)
All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

A WARM WELCOMETO 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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