

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Seventh Sunday of Pentecost
July 19 , 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

PRELUDE "Whispering Hope" A. Hawthorne

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We come to celebrate God's blessings to us.

People: Out loud, but muted
Surely God is in this place!

We come to open ourselves to God's guidance and love.

People: Out loud, but muted
Surely God is in this place!

We come to see more clearly God's presence in our lives.

People: Out loud, but muted
Surely God is in this place!

We come to see God in this community of seekers.

People: Out loud, but muted
Surely God is in this place!

We come to pray, praise, and offer ourselves to God.

People: Out loud, but muted
Surely God is in this place! Let us worship!

HYMN "On Eagles Wings"

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in his
shadow for life, say to the Lord, "My refuge, my
Rock in shop I trust."

And he will raise you up on
Eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the
Sun and hold you in the palm of his hand.

The snare of the Fowler will never capture you, and famine will
Bring you no fear, under his wings your refuge, his
Faithfulness your shield.

And he will raise you up on
Eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the
Sun and hold you in the palm of his hand.

You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that
Flies by day; though thousands fall about you,
Near you it shall not come

And he will raise you up on
Eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the
Sun and hold you in the palm of his hand.

INVOCATION

Holy One, you know us already.
Help us to know you better.
Let us see you all around us.
Fill our worship with your Spirit
so that we may learn to recognize
your presence in all places. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Our failures, shortcomings, and sin are like strong weeds in our lives.
We confess them to God,
So that we may clear away anything
that would choke out our nourishing connection with God.
Let us pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God,
in the fields of our lives, we strive to be fruitful, but we fall short.
We get so comfortable
that we sleep when we need to be vigilant
about the errors in our own lives
and the injustices around us.
We are so casual about wrongdoing that it creeps into our lives
and threatens to overwhelm the good we do.
We do not pay attention to the unjust systems which shape our lives,
that we must work to transform
so that your Beloved Community may come to be.
Forgive us.
Keep us awake so that we can produce the lives you call us to live. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

You are not God's tenants or employees;
you are God's precious family.
In the words of the apostle Paul,
"You did not receive a spirit of servitude to fall back into fear,
but you have received a spirit of adoption."
As God's children, in God's embrace, you are forgiven and free.

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 13: 24-30, 36-43

SERMON

"It Will Never Be Perfect"

*HYMN

"For All the Saints"

For all the saints who from their labors rest, who
Thee by faith before the world confessed, thy
Name O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might; thou,
Lord their captain in the well fought fight;
Though in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds and ocean's farthest coast, through
Gates pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

What we have received comes from seed sown in us by Jesus Christ.
Having received the blessings of the harvest begun in us,
let us return to God fruits of the blessings we have received.

*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

Loving God, we offer back to you what we have been given:
our treasure, our time, and our lives.
Bless our gifts and multiply them for your purposes. Amen.

*BENEDICTION

God's spirit is always with you.
So, Wherever we go, God is there!
If you ascend to heaven,
God is there.
If you settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
God is there.
In all places, God holds you fast.
May you know deeply the presence of God:
Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit.
Go with God.

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

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

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