

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Twelfth Sunday of Pentecost
August 23, 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** *Matthew 16:13-20; Romans 12:1-8*

Who do you say I am?

People: *Out loud, but muted*
Some say Moses, some say Elijah,
Prophet who comes with a word from the Holy.

Who do you say I am?

People: *Out loud, but muted*
Some say Messiah, some say "Human One"
Healer who shares the life of the Holy.

Who do you say I am?

People: *Out loud, but muted*
Some say Emmanuel, God-with-us,
Some say Wisdom, teacher of truth
Some say Ruler of Peace, Bringer of Justice.

And you, *Wilton*, Who do you say I am?

People: *Out loud, but muted*
You are the Body to which we belong;
We are your members, each needed, treasured.
In you we are transformed
into your Hope, your Love, your Vision,
You are the One we long for, the One we seek here today,
The One who empowers our lives.

Come, 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 whom 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**

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Holy One, we tell your story today as a conspiracy of hearts;
The defiant midwives,
the laboring women,
the daughter of power
and the daughter of poverty
join forces to protect the children of Israel
and so set the stage for liberation.
Meet us here today and show us the gifts we have
to offer in the service of your kin-dom-
resilience, clear-sightedness, courage, compassion-
setting the stage for a Just World for All.
In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

God, stand on the birthstool with us.
The pain is too much to bear.
Our world has dealt so “shrewdly” with your people
that your renewal seems impossible.
Fears of economic uncertainty confront us all
and seem to limit our choices;
Fears of immigrants and strangers in our midst
seem to require walls;
Fears about changing traditions
seem to require blocks to new family expressions.
We lament, God, but we don’t push through the fear.
Let us open ourselves to labor with you.
Stand on the birthstool with us.
Push us to labor in your love, as we pray in the way of our Savior:

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The God of Moses and Miriam, "I AM WHO I AM",
makes a way for you.
he holds your hand and insists upon life.
You are a channel of his love, now and always.
Praise be to the God of life who is, now and forever!

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 16:13-20

SERMON

"Who Do We Say We Are?"

***HYMN**

"Be Thou My Vision"

Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art
thou my best though, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my Wisdom, and thou my true Word,
I ever with thee an thou with me, Lord;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my Treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever be fall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

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 FOR THE OFFERING

With praise and thanks, we create new life.
With vigor and sweat, we deliver our love.
With care and hope, we stretch out our hands.
We give our gifts of tithes and offerings to renew the world again.

*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

People: *Out loud, but muted*
God, with praise and thanks,
vigor and sweat, care and hope,
we bless these gifts in your love.
In Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen.

*BENEDICTION

(inspired by Psalm 138, Romans 12:1-8)

One: We go into the world as parents of your love.

People: *Out loud, but muted*
We will be transformed by the renewing of our minds.

One: We will not think more highly of ourselves than we ought.

People: *Out loud, but muted*
We will go to remember we can't do it alone.

One: We stretch out our hands.

People: *Out loud, but muted*
Our Midwife God delivers.

POSTLUDE

“Jubilate Amen”

N.Charles

Please stay muted during the postlude and join our Virtual Coffee Hour immediately following the service.

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor Kerry Richardson (Interim Pastor)
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music
Rebecca Kennedy, Liturgist
All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Deacons Meeting Via Zoom, August 25, 7 PM
- Search Committee Meeting via Zoom - August 26, 7 PM
- In Person Worship - Sunday, August 30, 9:30 AM

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United Church of Christ
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