

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 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

“Sweet Hour Of Prayer”

G. Sewell

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Praise God!

People: *Out loud, but muted*
Sing to God a new song!

Give thanks to our Maker.

People: *Out loud, but muted*
We rejoice in our sovereign God

Let us praise God with dancing and music.

People: *Out loud, but muted*
Let the faithful sing for joy as we praise God together!

***HYMN**

“I Then Shall Live”

I then shall live as one who’s been forgiven;
I’ll walk with joy to know my debts are paid. I know my
name is clear before my father; I am his child, and
I am not afraid. So greatly pardoned, I’ll forgive an-
other; the law of love I gladly will obey.

I then shall love as one who’s learned compassion;
I’ve been so loved that I’ll risk loving, too. I know how
fear builds walls instead of bridges; I dare to see an-
other’s point of view. And when relationships demand com-
mitment, then I’ll be there to care and follow through

Your kingdom come around and through and in me,
Your power and glory, let them shine through me; your hallowed
name, oh, may I bear with honor, and may your living
Kingdom come in me. The Bread of Life, oh, may I share with
honor, and may you feed a hungry world through me.

***INVOCATION**

As we gather here in your name, O Christ,
you are already among us.
Keep us open to your presence in us and around us
that we may grow closer to you. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess together

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, too often we take you for granted.
When you call us to leave the situations that constrain us,
we are too complacent to hear your voice,
and too timid to leave what is familiar.
Make us ready to go where you lead us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God’s grace is abundant, God’s love is never-ending.
As children of God, receive forgiveness and blessing.

***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 18:15-20

SERMON

“Let’s Clear The Air”

HYMN

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

Forgive our sins as we forgive, you
taught us, Lord, to pray, but you alone can
grant us grace to live the words we say.

How can your pardon reach and bless the
unforgiving heart that broods on wrongs and
Will not let old bitterness depart?

In blazing light your cross reveals the
truth we dimly knew: what trivial debts are
owed to us, how great our debt to you.

Lord cleanse the depths within our souls and
bid resentment cease. Then, bound to all in
bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace

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**

God gives to us continually.
In each breath, we receive God's spirit.
Responding to God's generosity,
let us give to God in thanksgiving.

***DOXOLOGY Tune: OLD HUNDRETH**

**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**

We dedicate to you, generous God, our lives.
Receive these offerings as a sign of our gratitude and commitment. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

***HYMN**

As We Gather At Your Table

As we gather at Your table, as we listen to your word
help us know, O god, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.

Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
there no more will envy bind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

Jesus sets the table where we dine today.
Jesus' welcome extends to all of humanity.
People of all ages, of all genders, of all cultures, and cultures
of all economic conditions are welcome here.

No one can earn a place at this meal.
Come of your own choice.
You need only desire a deeper relationship with the risen Christ.
Bring your hopes and your history.
Bring your deliberations and your doubts.
Come as your whole self.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

May God be with you
People: *Out loud, but muted*
And also with you!

Lift your hearts
People: *Out loud, but muted*
We lift them up to God!

Let us give thanks to God most high.
People: *Out loud, but muted*
It is right to give God thanks and praise!

Creating God, we give thanks that you brought this world
and all of humanity into being,
breathing life into us.
You show yourself in each face we encounter,
each and all created in your image.

We thank you for your covenants.
You taught us how to serve you,
and how to honor each other.
To bring us into relationship with you,
you sent us prophets and teachers.
We offer thanks that when we ignored your embrace,
you persisted in reaching out to us.
We thank you most for the life and ministry of Jesus.
The death and resurrection of Christ taught us
that nothing, not even death, can separate us from you.

SANCTUS

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION/REMEMBRANCE

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

BREAKING AND POURING

THE DISTRIBUTION

THE BLESSING

May the presence of Christ, Body and Spirit, keep and preserve you to
everlasting life.

THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, we thank you for this meal
and for all of the ways you nourish us.
Grow in us that we may nourish others.
Sustain us as we press toward the goal of your call in Christ Jesus. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

*BENEDICTION

Let us go forth into the world
to meet all creation with the Spirit of Hope and Justice!

POSTLUDE

“Change My Heart, O God”

E. Espinosa

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Labor Day, September 7, Church “Virtual” Office Closed
- Search Committee Meeting (Zoom) - September 9, 6:30 PM
- Congregational Survey Meeting (Zoom)- September, 9, 7:00 PM
- In Person Worship - September 13, 9:30 AM

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

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

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