ORDER OF WORSHIP Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost September 20, 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 gladyou 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 "Nearer" Medley J. A. Clarke

*CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Matthew 20:1-16)

One: Our eyes are heavy.

Our hope is soaring.

We wait in the marketplace.

People: Out loud, but muted

Our God is gracious.

One: Our feet are tired.

Our expectations rise. We are hired first.

People: Out loud, but muted

Our God is merciful.

One: Our backs are sore.

Our spirits are low. We are paid last.

People: Out loud, but muted

Our God is slow to anger.

One: Our tempers flare.

Our anger rages.

We take what belongs to us.

People: Out loud, but muted

Our God abounds in steadfast love.

*HYMN

"Blessed Assurance"

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

{Refrain} This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long; This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, Visions of rapture now burst on my sight; Angels, descending, bring from above Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest, Watching and waiting, looking above, Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

INVOCATION (inspired by Matthew 20:1-16)

Call all the laborers, O God,

Call your laborers who woke early,

Call your laborers who came late,

Call your laborers who feel wronged,

Call your laborers who feel overlooked,

Call your laborers who have no employment,

Call your laborers who can't feed their children with this wage,

Call your laborers who know they are working in your fields,

Call your laborers who use their wage to increase your love,

Call all your laborers, O God,

Tell us to roll up our sleeves

For we know that we have work to do.

Let us find you in the work we share here and now,

in Christ's presence we pray. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

"Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel," Let us spend a quiet minute reflecting on where we have failed to "strive side by side"... for the Gospel.

Silence

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Beloved in Christ rejoice! In grace and mercy, God abounds in steadfast love Forgives us, and sets us free to grow in grace. Bless God's name 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 20:1-16

SERMON

"What's our Worth?"

*HYMN

Jesus calls us o'er the tumult"

Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea; day by day his sweet voice soundeth, saying "Christian, follow me."

Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store, from each idol that would keep us, saying "Christian love me more."

In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these."

Jesus calls us by thy mercies, Savior may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thine oabedience, serve and love thee best 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

When our eyes are heavy, we dream of another world. When our spirits are low, we turn to each other. When our anger flares, we need each other's gifts most. We give our gifts of tithes and offerings to create your kingdom of heaven.

*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 OF THE OFFERING

O God, you have called your laborers to give their gifts. Bless these offerings so that they reflect the work of the kingdom of heaven. With Christ, our servant, we pray. Amen.

*BENEDICTION (inspired by Philippians 1:21-30)

One: Let us continue in our work.

People: Out loud, but muted

Let us live in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.

One: Let us be in one spirit, striving side by side,

People: Out loud, but muted Let us find Christ in our struggles,

One: Let us be surprised by the joy in our faith,

People: Out loud, but muted

Let us find you, O God, in all our work. Amen.

*POSTLUDE My Jesus, I Love Thee" L. Smith

ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 23, Search Committee Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 PM September 26, Yard Sale (7 AM Set up, 8 AM Sale, 2 PM Clean Up) September 27, Worship At Cathedral of The Pines., 10:00 AM

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

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

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