

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Thirteenth Sunday of Pentecost
August 30, 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 "Purer in Heart" F. Ritter"

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We who dwell in the shelter of the Most High

All: **Seek God here.**

One: We who come to be inspired and changed

All: **Seek God's Spirit here.**

One: We who know how little we know

All: **Seek God's Word here.**

***HYMN** "Take up your Cross," the Savior Said

"Take up your cross," the savior said, "if you would my disciple be; deny yourself, the world forsake, and humbly follow after me."

Take up your cross, let not its weight fill your weak spirit with alarm; his strength shall bear your spirit up, and nerve your heart, and brace your arm.

Take up your cross, heed not the shame, nor let your foolish pride rebel; your Lord for you the cross endured, and fought the powers of death and hell.

Take up your cross, and follow Christ, nor think till death to lay it down; for only they who bear the cross may hope to wear the glorious crown.

GATHERING PRAYER

God, you are made known to us in the rustling wind that blows,
in the blazing fire that does not consume,
in the face of the good,
in the deep of the unknown.

We meet you here. We accept your greeting. We welcome your inspiration.
We await the change you have in store for us.
Draw us in to you. Inhabit our spirits. Focus our attention.
Bring us to you - you who are already with us.
Help us to be as you would have us be.
Through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
here and everywhere, now and always. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

As we prepare for confession, let us consider questions inspired by the apostle Paul.

Is our love always genuine?

Silence

Do we resist the evil we see?

Silence

Do we consistently seek to serve God?

Silence

Are we hospitable to strangers?

Silence

Do we offer blessings to our enemies? Do we even know what this means?

Silence

Do we have close relationships with people who are really different from us?

Silence

Do we seek revenge on those who have wronged us?

Silence

Good friends, we do these things.

We do them often - maybe not all at once.

But they are actions that are part of the human condition.

They are also actions that turn us away from the love God always offers us.

In this time of confession, God invites us to examine all this, and to repent -
which really just means to turn back.

Let us confess our sins and, as we do, let us turn back.

God of mercy and forgiveness, we confess that:

All: our love isn't always genuine

we see evil and wring our hands instead of resisting it

we forget to consider more ways to serve you

we turn our back on strangers who could benefit from our hospitality

we do not pray enough for our enemies

we associate with our own kind, fearing the "other"

we relish in fantasies of revenge.

For all this, and for all that burdens our heart today, O God,
we seek your forgiveness.

Have mercy on us and hear our prayers...

Silence

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God's mercy extends beyond the bounds of even our collective imagination.
God's love seeps through any wall we could ever put up.
God's goodness holds more power than the sum of all sin.

It is because of that extensive, seeping, powerful and bold love
I declare to you in the name of the blessed and holy Trinity:
That God forgives us all our sins.

All: Thanks be to God.

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 16:21-28

SERMON

“Say It Ain’t So!”

***HYMN**

“I have Decided to Follow Jesus”

I have decided to follow Jesus, I have de-
cided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow
Jesus no turning back, no turning back

The world behind me, the cross before me, the world be-
hind me, the cross before me, the world behind me, the cross be-
Fore me no turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, I still will follow, Though none go
with me, I still will follow, Though none go with me, I still will
follow, no turning back, no turning back.

Will you decide now to follow Jesus? Will you de-
cide now to follow Jesus? Will you decide now to follow
Jesus? no turning back, no turning back.

“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**

Good folk: if we pay close enough attention, when we look around,
all we can see is need. But is that how you think God sees it?
I think that as God looks around, God sees need, yes, but God also sees great
abundance. God sees all the gifts God has already given us, and God sees
opportunity. As a church, we are invited to look around through the same lens -
seeing opportunity, gifts, and possibilities around us
while acknowledging the deep needs that surround us.

Each person here has something to give. And, each person has a need.
I invite you to prayerfully reach within yourself acknowledging a need you bring today recognizing that every person around you brings a need, as well.
As a church, it is our job, our calling, to join together and meet those needs.
Share them with us, and we will receive them prayerfully.

And, as the offering is gathered, I invite you to acknowledge, in your giving, that you had a gift to share, too. And I invite you to share that gift generously, trusting that the people around you will do the same.
Share your gifts with us, and we will receive them gratefully.

Today's offering of needs and gifts will now be received with gratitude.

***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**

**ALL: In your Creation, O God, we stand on the holiest of ground.
May these gifts be a blessing to all that you have made.
May the church, organizations and people that receive them act as your hands.
May needs be seen and met, and may the giving fit the need.
Through Christ, who models infinite giving. Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

The blessing of Almighty God:
Source, Word and Spirit, One,
be with us now and always. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

“How Can I Keep From Singing?”

T. Birchwood

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

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

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Email for Church Administration
Del Mogavero: 2ccwilton@gmail.com
Church Phone Number: 603-654-9045
Website: 2ccwilton.org
Pastor Kerry: 603-620-0235
Email: kerrywrichardson@comcast.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS/MEETINGS VIA ZOOM

**August 31, Book Club, 10:00 AM
September 2. Search Committee, 6:30 PM
September 2, Congregational Survey Meeting, 7:00 PM
September 6, Virtual Worship, 9:00 PM**

The Second Congregational Church in Wilton,
United Church of Christ
25 Gregg Street
P. O. Box 246
Wilton, NH 03086

