# ORDER OF WORSHIP Seventeenth Sunday of Pentecost September 27, 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 "Appalachian Meditation" D.L. Moore

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Watch and listen for the wonders of our God.

People: Our God is among us.

One: Watch and listen for the goodness of our God.

People: Our God moves among us.

One: Watch and listen, for God is here.

People: Our God dwells among us.

\*HYMN "I Lift My Eyes to The Quiet Hills"

I lift my eyes to the quiet hills in the press of a busy day; as green hills stand in a dusty land so God is my strength and stay.

I lift my eyes to the quiet hills to a calm that is mine to share; secure and still in the Father's will and kept by the Father's care.

I lift my eyes to the quiet hills with a prayer as I turn to sleep; by day, by night, thro' the dark and light my Shepherd will guard his sheep.

I lift my eyes to the quiet hills and my heart to the Father's throne; in all my ways to the end of days the Lord will preserve his own.

#### **GATHERING PRAYER**

God, the encourager, God, the compassionate, God, the merciful, holy, blessed:

Disturb us. Rouse us from our sleep.
Lift us into consciousness of your presence.
Change us, move us, mold us for the better;
So that, at the sound of your voice
At the call of our name
We will never be the same.

May this worship do this and so much more, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Called to follow Christ, we are called to a life of humility. But what does that even mean?

Do we seek to exalt ourselves - to be lifted above others? Does our sense of success depend on someone else's failure? Does our love of God entirely guide our relationships? Do we twist service into convenience and leisure, ignoring the idea that to serve is to be a servant?

Silence

Let us pray:

People: Disturb the habits of our sin, O God.

Rouse us from the sleep that cradles sin's embrace.

In the name of Jesus, we pray -Show us your ways Highlight what we can change

People: And change what we cannot.

Silence

### \*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Good friends:

God is at work in you!
God is alive in us!
God lives that sin is d

God lives - but sin is dead. And our sins are forgiven, through Christ, our Savior.

People: Alleluia! Amen.

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 21:23-32

SERMON "Just Words or Actions?"

\*HYMN "For Beauty of the Meadows"

For beauty of meadows, for grandeur of trees, for flowers of woodlands, for creatures of seas, for all you created and gave us to share, we praise you, Creator, extolling you care.

As stewards of beauty received at your hand, as creatures who hear your most urgent command, we turn from our wasteful destruction of life, confessing our failures, confessing our strife.

Teach us once again to be gardeners in peace; all nature around us is ours but on lease; your name we would hallow in all that we do, fulfilling our calling creating with you.

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

#### \*BENEDICTION

The sweet Spirit of God has blessed us! Let us give thanks.

People: Thank you!

The great Spirit of God will guide us! Let us give thanks.

People: Thank you!

The humble Spirit of God is with us. Let us give thanks.

People: Thank you!

And may the blessed, eternal Trinity grant you the peace the world

cannot give, now and forever.

People: Amen.

\*POSTLUDE "Bound for My Father's Home" D.L. Moore

# ANNOUNCEMENTS/MEETINGS VIA ZOOM

September 28, Book Club, 10:00 AM September 29, Deacons Meeting, 7:00 PM September 30, Search Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM October 4, Virtual Worship/Communion Sunday

# PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

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

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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