

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 4, 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 "There's A Quiet Understanding" T. Smith

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Creator God, we are here, together in hope!

People: *Out loud, but muted*
With community and creation

Leader: With neighbors near and far

People: *Out loud, but muted*
With those known and new

Leader: With Christians across geography and across time,

People: *Out loud, but muted*
Together in hope! Let us worship!

***HYMN** "We Have Come to Join in Worship"

We have come to join in worship and adore the Lord our God.
Let us come in prayer, expecting God to speak his mighty Word.
All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down.
Christians, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

See them gather all around you, those he bought at such a cost;
See the weary, see the hurting, see the lonely, see the lost
Be his hand, and touch the needy; be his gospel, let it sound!
Be his body, and sweet manna will be showered all around.

Let us love our God supremely; let us love each other, too.
Let us care for all his people till our God makes all things new.
Christ will call us home to heaven; at his banquet we'll sit down;
Christ himself will rise and serve us living manna all around.

*INVOCATION

Holy and gracious God,
let us be open to your presence among your people,
those gathered for worship,
and all of your people,
throughout your creation.
May we receive you fully
and respond to you wholeheartedly. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess together

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*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: 33-46

SERMON

“Why Do We Reject Things?”

PRAYER FOR THE WORLD

Holy One, we lift up our siblings around the world.
We have heard their cries for justice and peace
as they face the challenges
of human rights abuses, damage to creation, natural disasters, and COVID-19.

*Pause to reflect on the news of the world; speak into the silence the names
of areas or countries where there is deep suffering in this moment.*

We know that there are many obstacles to addressing these challenges.
But we also know that you are greater
and that your love for your people is deeper
than we could ever imagine.
Cover your people with your love, O God.
May we feel your presence walking with us each day.
Guide us, O God,
that we may also walk beside our local and global neighbors
in prayer, partnership, and presence.
May we listen to you and our partners
as we consider what we might do to share in ministry with all people.

*Pause to reflect on the news of the world which gives expressions of unexpected hope;
speak into the silence the names of places or situations where God is revealed.*

Weave us together in hope, O God,
that we may recognize that we are all part of your great tapestry.
All of our threads are needed and necessary for your beautiful design.
Strengthen us and nourish us for the journey,
as you strengthen and nourish those around the globe.

HYMN

“Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather”

Here, O Lord, your servants gather, hand we link with hand;
looking toward our Saviors cross, joined in love we stand.
as we seek the realm of God, we unite to pray;
Jesus, Savior, guide our steps, for you are the Way.

Many are the tongues we speak, scattered are the lands,
yet our hearts are one in God, one in love's demands.
e'en in darkness hope appears, calling age and youth:
Jesus, teacher, dwell with us, , for you are the Truth.

Natures secrets open wide, changes never cease.
where, O, where can weary souls find the source of peace?
unto all those sore distressed, torn by endless strife:
Jesus, healer, bring your balm, for you are the Life.

Grant, O God, an age renewed, filled with deathless love;
help us as we work and pray, send us from above.
truth and courage, faith and power, needed in our strife:
Jesus, Master, be our Way, be our Truth, our Life.

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

*World Communion Sunday is traditionally one of the Sundays on which
the UCC takes a special mission collection for **Neighbors in Need**
For more information on neighbors in need check out: <https://www.ucc.org/nin> .*

*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.**

*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

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Let us break bread together on our knees; let us break
bread together on our knees.
when I fall on my knees, with my
face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees; let us drink
wine together on our knees.
when I fall on my knees, with my
face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees; let us praise
God together on our knees.
when I fall on my knees, with my
face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

Remembering that many of us are gathered remotely, at many tables,
And are sharing bread and cup in a virtual communion,
May we remember that this action at table is the ultimate symbol of unity.
These tables are set and all of God’s children are welcome.
These tables are open and all of God’s children receive grace, love, and hope.
This welcome, this bounty, this experience of Christ’s saving love
are celebrated here at this table and all around the world.

Let us pray this prayer from Bangladesh:

O Savior Christ,
in whose way of life lies the secret of all life,
and the hopes of all the people,
we pray for quiet courage to meet this hour.
We did not choose to be born or to live in such an age.
But let its problems challenge us,
its discoveries exhilarate us,
its injustices anger us,
its possibilities inspire us,
and its vigor renew us,
for your Kingdom’s sake.

Bless this cup and this bread,
That it may nourish us for the journey
Together in hope. Amen.

(Bangladesh. *A Procession of Prayers: Meditations and Prayers from around the World*,
comp. John Carden, WCC, and Cassell, London, UK, 1998, p.179.
Additional communion language added by Global Ministries.)

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION/REMEMBRANCE

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

BREAKING AND POURING

THE DISTRIBUTION

THE BLESSING

THANKSGIVING

GOING WITH THE WORD

*BENEDICTION

May the blessings of God,
the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit
go with you into the world. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

“This is The Day”

L. Garrett

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Neighbors in Need Collection

We are taking a collection for the UCC's Neighbors In Need Fund.
Donations can be mailed to the Church.
Please mark on memo line of check - Neighbors In Need or NIN
so funds are allocated properly.

Meetings

October 7, Search Committee Meeting, 7 PM

Worship Next Week

October 11, In Person Worship, 9:30 AM

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

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



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