

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Twentieth Sunday of Pentecost
October 18, 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 "In His Keeping" C. H. Morris

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(inspired by Exodus 33:12-23)*

How shall we know that we have found favor in your sight, O God?

People: **Out loud, but muted**

How do children know that they are created in your image?

How do we raise up youth to always know your presence goes with them?

People: **Out loud, but muted**

How do we find this faith within ourselves, O God?

With Moses, we implore, "Show us your glory."

People: **Out loud, but muted**

With the children, we seek your graciousness now.

***HYMN** "Our Father We Have Wandered"

Our Father, we have wandered and hidden from your face,
In foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.
But now, in exile dwelling, we rise with fear and shame,
As distant but compelling, we hear you call our name.

And now at length discerning the evil that we do,
Behold us, Lord, returning with hope and trust to you.
In haste you come to meet us and home rejoicing bring,
In gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.

O Lord of all the living, both banished and restored,
Compassionate, forgiving and ever caring Lord
Grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in peace.

***INVOCATION**

God of forever and right now,
By your Spirit open our ears to hear your Word to us
in scripture, in sermon, in song.

Open our eyes to see your Word to us
in children's faces,
in troubling statistics,
in our action together.

Open our hearts to feel your Word to us
in the warmth of love,
in the ache of sadness,
in the energy of commitment.

Strengthen our desire for justice for all children,
And our wills to advocate and organize,
So that all children may grow up safe, and thrive in community.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Growing God, we confess that we cling to the comfortable,
fall back on the familiar,
and allow apathy to dull our hearts and our commitment.
We shrug our shoulders and say that poverty is inevitable
even as it deprives children of the fullness of life
that you intend and they deserve.

We throw up our hands at the number of children without health coverage
and accept what is unacceptable.
We shake our heads over the bursting prisons
but turn away from the things that push children toward prison
rather than keeping them on the path to success.

Forgive us, Growing God, for callousness instead of compassion,
for discouragement instead of determination,
for selfishness instead of service.

Allow us to grow into your ways and find favor in your sight.
Mature with us so that just love may be realized for all your children.
Daydream with us so that we might do justice on the behalf of all children.
Answer these prayers we pray in the name of your Beloved Child,
the hope of the world. Amen.

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

(inspired by Exodus 33:12-23)

God grows with you.
Look upon his face, as he speaks sweetly to you, saying,
I will do the very thing you have asked;
for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.

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 22:15-22

SERMON

“What’s Your Caesar?”

*HYMN

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

Sent forth by God’s blessing our true faith confessing, the
People of God from the dwelling take leave.
The service is ended, O new be extended the
Fruits of our worship in all who believe.
The seed of the teaching, receptive souls reaching, shall
Blossom in action for God and for all.
God’s grace did invite us, and love shall unite us to
Work for God’s kingdom and answer the call.
With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living, the
Tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing in love ever caring,
Embracing God’s children of each tribe and race.
With you grace you feed us, with your light now lead us
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving give
honor to Christ and that name which we bear.

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

God looks upon your face.
God assures you when nothing else can.
“My presence will go with you”, God says.
“I will give you rest”, God prays.
Let us carry this spirit into our giving.
Let us praise God with our gifts of tithes and offerings..

***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, help us to recover our hope for our children's sake.
Help us to recover our courage for our children's sake.
Help us to recover our discipline for our children's sake.
Help us to recover our faith in you for our children's sake. Amen.

***BENEDICTION** *(inspired by Exodus 33:12-23)*

People: Growing God, we have known your presence.
Out loud, but muted
We have lived in your love.

People: Show us your glory.
Out loud, but muted
Reveal your glory in us.

We will carry your glory from here.

People: **Out loud, but muted**
We will show it to all your children. Amen.

POSTLUDE

“O Lord, Look Down From Heaven”

B. Holden

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

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor Kerry Richardson (Interim Pastor)

Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music
Stephanie Ouellette, Liturgist
All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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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 via Zoom

October 20, Council Meeting, 7 PM

October 21, Search Committee Meeting, 7 PM

Worship Next Week

October 25, In Person Worship, 9:30 AM