

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Nineteenth Sunday of Pentecost
October 11, 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 “Ballad” S. Douglas

***SOLEMN DECLARATION**

One: In the name of the Creator, the Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Many: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

One: Gather at the mountain of God’s holiness.

People: **Today is a day to celebrate God.**

One: Gather aware of those you left behind to be here.

People: **Today is a day to stand in the gap between God and God’s children.**

One: Gather to share God’s presence.

People: **Today is a day of transformation for us and for God’s world.**

***HYMN** “When Peace Like A River”

When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like
sea billows roll, whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to
say “it is well, it is well with My soul.”

It is well (It is well)
with my soul (with my soul)
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest
assurance control: that Christ has regarded my helpless
estate, and has shed his own blood for my soul.

It is well (It is well)
with my soul (with my soul)
it is well, it is well with my soul.

My sin - O, the bliss of this glorious thought, my sin - not in part but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

It is well (It is well)
with my soul (with my soul)
it is well, it is well with my soul.

And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trump shall resound and the lord shall descend: "Even so" - it is well with my soul.

It is well (It is well)
with my soul (with my soul)
it is well, it is well with my soul.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Living God, at times you seem so distant; help us know you are near.
At times we stray; welcome us home.
Standing in your presence, we know there are other people we could be with; help us bridge the gap between your presence and the people we love.
We pray in the name of Christ who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

God pours blessings upon us, even as we choose to go our own way.
God is present and seeks to bring healing and wholeness to all.
Therefore, I invite you to confess all that would separate you from God or one another.

Let us pray.

When we have fashioned idols of our own desire or worshiped the temples of our own tradition,

People: Lord, have mercy.

Time for personal reflection and confession.

When we have denied your invitation to the banquet of love and justice, or failed to extend the invitation to others,

People: Christ, have mercy.

Time for personal reflection and confession.

When we have adorned ourselves with worry rather than joy or failed to be gentle, knowing you are near,

People: Lord, have mercy.

Time for personal reflection and confession.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Praise be to God, our sins are forgiven.
God's steadfast love endures forever.

People: Praise 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 22:1-14

SERMON

“But they seem to have it all together?”

*HYMN

“Abide With Me”

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide
the darkness deepens Lord, with me abide
When other helpers fail and comforts flee
help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away
change and decay in all around I see
O Lord who changest not, abide with me.

I need your presence every passing hour
what but your grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like yourself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Hold now Thy cross before my closing eyes
shine through the gloom and point me to the skies
heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

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

*OFFERTORY INVITATION

Moses stood in the breach between God and humanity.
It's our turn to do the same.
What will you give to extend God's love and care to others?

***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**

**Gracious God,
receive the gift of our lives
and this offering of our service
to carry your love from this place to a world in need.
This we pray in the name of Christ,
whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
reign in our hearts and lives,
one God now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING

**Go forth, strengthened to do the work of Christ,
standing in the gap, extending the invitation to the eternal banquet,
rejoicing in God, let your gentleness be known to everyone
and don't worry about anything.
The God who created you, the Christ who redeems you
and the Spirit who empowers you is with you today and ever more. Amen**

POSTLUDE

"Musette"

M. R. Delalande

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Book Club via Zoom - October 12, 10 :00 AM
- Search Committee Meeting @ Fellowship Hall - October 14, 7 :00 PM
- Worship via Zoom - October 18, 9:30 AM

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

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

The Second Congregational Church in Wilton,

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