

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Twenty-Fourth Sunday of Pentecost
November 15, 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 “Largo” J.M. Leclair

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Sing the new day
All: **O God, we come.**

One: Sing a new song
All: **Awakened, we come.**

One: Sing to the light
All: **So beckoned, we come.**

***HYMN** “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store;
nature’s wonder, Jesus’ wisdom, costly cross, grave’s shattered door,
Gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son;
All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the Church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone;
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the Gospel Word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ’s ageless call,
Healing teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.

***GATHERING PRAYER**

There is a richness here -
a richness that greets and grows and holds and challenges and keeps.
There is a richness here -
a richness that surrounds and brings and delivers and gives.
The richness holds us in our weakness, fills us in our hunger,
finds us when we’re lost.
So here, richly blessed, we have come, and we have been found.
Let this time together inspire us in richness and grace. **Amen.**

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

There is a richness here - a gorgeous, flowing richness of unending abundance.
But that doesn't mean that it guides us.
Our ways - within and beyond our control - speak of something different:
of lack, of fear, of something other than
an acknowledgement of God's endless and beautiful river of grace.

People: But how do we step into that river?
Do we step into it with trust?
Do we trust the current of God's generous gifts?

Or do we run from the river?
For when we run, when we turn away from God's gifts in distrust,
We lose the refreshment and joy of that richness...And something else reigns.

People: Then, what's left?

Now is the time -
now is the time to consider just how we distrust God's abundance.
Now is the time - now is the time to begin something new.
Now is the time - now is them time to trust ... differently.

Silence

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Let us pray:
We haven't always trusted, God. But now we do.

People: We acknowledge the richness of your blessings
We see your flowing river of love
And we wade into your grace.

There is a richness - a richness that says "yes" - eternally -
even in the face of our behavioral "no"s.
There is a richness that penetrates distrust and offers so much more.
This richness forgives and gives even more.

People: We know this forgiveness.
And we thank you, God.

GLORIA PATRI Tune: GREATORIX

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

ANTHEM	"Blessing after Blessing"	V.T. Courtney
READING FROM SCRIPTURE		Matthew 25:14-30
SERMON	"What Will you do with your gifts"	
*HYMN	"All Things Are Yours!"	

All things are yours! We make that true when we
Return our gifts to you. And so we give, and
So we share, in Christ's strong name expressing care.

“Give out of love.” Your Word commands. We are your
Head your heart, your hands. Your Word you
Underscore with deeds by using us to answer needs.
O what a joy to give and then, out of compassion,
Give again. You have no needs. Though
That be true, the gifts we share are given to you.
All things are yours! We make that true when we
Return our gifts to you. And so we give, and
So we share, in Christ’s strong name expressing care.

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

***INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

Children of the light - richness and blessings are ours.
Now, the time is ours - isn’t it exciting?
inspired by God’s word, God’s gifts, God’s love
Encouraged by the presence and commitment of everyone else around us -
Let’s do something!

Let’s try something new!
We’ve given before, we’ve given to the church.
Let’s keep giving. But let’s give something new.
Maybe it means that we add a few dollars to our usual pledge.
Maybe it means that we add a pledge of time that we haven’t included before.
Maybe it means that we make a commitment of giving for the first time ever.

Now is the time to do something new about God’s abundant gifts to us.

***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**

Let us pray.

**O God, we have come, and what a delight it has been!
We have come before your table with gifts -
gifts of ourselves, gifts of risk, gifts of newness, gifts of trust.
We thank you for the chance to give,
and pray that we and all whom our gifts bless will never be the same.
Through our greatest gift, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

Go now as children of the light:
**Ready to serve,
Eager to give,
Delighted to love.**

And may God's blessing:
Source, Word and Spirit, One, keep,
lead and mold you, now and forever. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

“Trumpet Tune”

H. Purcell



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *Choir Meeting Via Zoom, November 16, 7:00 PM*
- *Council Meeting Via Zoom, November 17, 7:00 PM*
- *Search Committee Meeting, November 18, 7:00 PM*

- *Worship Service, November 22, 9:30 AM*



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

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