

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Fourth Sunday After Epiphany
January 31, 2021
Second Congregational Church in Wilton,
United Church of Christ

Bold print means congregational participation.

**Welcome to the worship of God at the
Second Congregational Church in Wilton,
United Church of Christ.
We are glad you are here today!**

An asterisk () indicates to please stand, if you are able.*

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Savior Source”

Mozart

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Reader: Friends in Christ, what hopes do you bring to worship?
We bring hope for health and wholeness.

Reader: What afflictions do you bring to worship? Physical pain?
From illness and injury.

Reader: Emotional pain?
From sad and scary life situations.

Reader: Mental pain?
From dis-ease of many kinds.

Reader: With all of these afflictions, it’s a miracle that any
of us have made it to worship this morning!
**But where else would we be? We yearn to know God’s powerful love
and to know that wholeness is possible.**

Reader: In today’s gospel, a person with an “*afflicting spirit*” interrupts Jesus
And Jesus sets the person free.

Reader: And where does the miracle of this story and our stories begin?
**When we bring all of who we are
--Hopeful, afflicted, bold— into relationship with the Divine.**

Reader: So come, let us enter this sanctuary with our whole selves
--Hopeful, afflicted and bold--

Come, let us worship!

***HYMN— NO. 631**

“There is A Balm In Gilead”

(Verses 1 & 2)

The Adventist Vocal Ensemble

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole,
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work’s in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole,
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin sick soul.

If you can not preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus, and say, “He died for all”

There is a balm in Gidead to make the wounded whole,
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin sick soul.

to heal the sin sick soul.

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

O Divine Healer,
we confess that sometimes we yearn for you
to wave a magic wand on our wounded lives
to remove our pain, illness, and suffering.
We hear the gospel story of the one seeking healing from Jesus
and assume you will perform a similar miracle for all of us -
if we just pray hard enough! And we do pray!

Open our eyes to recognize the teachings and tools
you have given us with which to seek healing
in the midst of our afflictions and dis-eases.
You whisper to us that wholeness requires self-care and rest;
(what are some ways...?)

You nudge us toward caregivers who can support and advise us;
(who may help us...?)

You breathe into us energy to move and stretch and reach toward health;
(what are some ways...?)

You place in us an urgency to seek justice
so that all may enjoy adequate health care;
(what are some actions...?)

Renew our spirits in the midst of our dis-eases and afflicting spirits.
Transform us, O Whole-y One, for the health of your creation. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF BLESSING

In the midst of struggle, dis-ease and affliction,
know that you are made in God's image
and God sees you as whole and good.
So may you celebrate God in your midst
through opportunities of wholeness and justice.

*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

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

M. Ijames

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:21-28

SERMON

“What is Authority?”

*HYMN—NO. 443

“Trust and Obey”

(verses 1, 2 & 4)
Vocalist: Dana Dahl

When we walk with the Lord in the light of his Word, what a
Glory he sheds on our way! While we do his good will, he abides with us
Still, and with all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey, for there's
no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey

Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share, but our
Toil he will richly repay; not a grief nor a loss, not a frown nor a
Cross, but is blest if we trust and obey.

Trust and obey, for there's
no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey
Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at his feet, or we'll
Walk by his side in the way; what he says we will do, where he sends we will
go never fear, only trust and obey
Trust and obey, for there's
no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey

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.

VOCAL RESPONSE

"I Need Thee Every Hour"

Vocalists: Dana Dahl

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*OFFERING

When we give of ourselves to meet the needs of others,
we are co-creators in the health of God's creation.
As we have been given much, let us give in return.

*OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Something Beautiful For God"

B. Shirpio

*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

Reader: Transforming God, we dedicate our gifts for the health of your creation.
May those who receive these gifts be blessed by your love
and inspired to give to others
so that your creation will continue to be transformed by your love.

GOING WITH THE WORD

BENEDICTION

And now in the wholeness and the goodness of God, go forth.
Go and laugh with your friends,
reconcile with those who have hurt you,
be kind to strangers, and feel the Divine smile upon us.
Now and forevermore. Amen.

*POSTLUDE

"Canzonet"

A. Rosewig

*Please stay muted during the Postlude and join our
Virtual Coffee Hour immediately following the service*



Announcements/Meetings via Zoom

- Search Committee Meeting, February 3, 7:00 PM

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor Kerry Richardson (Interim Pastor)

Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music

Dana Dahl, Vocalist

Stephanie Ouellette, Liturgist

All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

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