

ORDER OF WORSHIP
First Sunday Of Lent
February 21, 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

“Reassurance”

Old Welsh Air

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Adapted From Psalm 25:1-3

One: To you, O GOD, we lift up the spirit of our whole selves.

Reader: **O God, we trust unashamedly in you; seeking that you be not ashamed of us;**

One: May we begin our Lenten journey together in right relationships;

Reader: **Teach us. Show us. Guide us in your paths.**
Grow us to know your ways more clearly.

One: You are the God of our salvation and the Sustainer of good relations.

Reader: **For you we wait.**

One: May integrity, a clean conscience, and upright living preserve us.

Reader: **Amen.**

***HYMN— NO. 132**

“Spirit Of God, Descend Upon My Heart”

(Verses 1, 2 & 5)

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart,
Free it from sin, through all this pulses move.
Stop to my weakness, mighty as you are,
And make me love you as I ought to love.

I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
No sudden rending of the veil of clay,
No angel visitant, no opening skies,
But take the dimness of my soul away.

Teach me to love you as your angels love,
One holy passion filling all my frame;
The baptism of the heaven descended Dove,
My heart an altar, and your love the flame.

INVOCATION

Reader: **As in days of old, Creator God,
we come to look for your signs of covenant promises.
Like the rainbow days of Noah, we see and know your signs
and hear your voice again directing us to places
of preparation and transformation in our lives and in our world.
Thank you God,
for your covenant signs in this season of Lent. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Call: Sisters and Brothers, in our daily lives
we need the gift of the season of Lent.
These 40 days can help us restore right relationships
with God and with others.
This is a fine time to focus,
clear our hearts and minds of distractions,
and re-orient and restore our whole selves.
May God be with us. Let us pray:

Prayer: Creating and Renewing God.
In this Lenten season we each need the opportunity
to clear our eyes of the glaze of indifference and apathy.
Help us get our minds off distractions, obsessions and self-pity
so that we don't feel helpless.
Help us to start over.
Re-orient head and heart
so that we may fill our whole selves
with life-affirming activities and thoughts.

(Silence)

Reader: **May I be in right relationship with you and all your creation
and join the United Church of Christ
in over-coming violence, hunger, and injustice.
May I find courage and clarity to assist me
in works of justice and compassion
which make daily life bearable for many.
In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S STEADFASTNESS

Brothers and Sisters,
God hears our prayers and, even in our human frailty,
promises to be with us in the wilderness times.
Observe, find comfort, and offer with courage
to restore and build relationships among God's people.
Experience a new and renewed sense of hope. **Amen.**

*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

ANTHEM

"Be Not Afraid"

D. Wagner

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:9-15

SERMON

"What Stage Are You In?"

***HYMN—NO. 478**

“Sweet Hour Of Pray”

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, that calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father’s throne make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief my soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter’s snare by your return, sweet hour of prayer.

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, the joys I feel the bliss I share
Of those whose anxious spirits burn with strong desires for your return!
With such I hasten to the place where God my Savior shows his face,
And gladly take my station there, and wait for your, sweet hour of prayer.

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, your wings shall my petition bear
To him whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless
And since he bids me seek his face, believe his Word, and trust his grace,
I’ll cast on him my every care, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer.

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

“Wide Wide as The Ocean”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***OFFERING INVITATION**

Psalm 25:10 reminds us,
"All the paths of God are steadfast love and faithfulness
for those who keep God's covenant and decrees."
Our church's ministries are extensions of God's love
and faithfulness made possible through the generous giving
of our time, energy, and money.
With love let us offer our gifts to God.

***OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

“Down to the River/Listen to your Children”

M. McDonald

***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: God of all bounty and blessing,
receive our lives and our gifts
to be bounty and blessings
to you, our church, and the world. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

BENEDICTION

Mindful of your mercy, forgiveness, and instruction, O God,
we go into the world renewed, refreshed,
and full of courage to be your people.
We go in peace to work for justice. Amen.

*POSTLUDE

“Venice Adoramus”

C. Nordman

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

Announcements/Meetings via Zoom

- Senior Book Club, Monday—February 22, 10:00 AM
- Search Committee Meeting, Wednesday—February 24, 7:00 PM

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor Kerry Richardson (Interim Pastor)
Stephanie Ouellette, Liturgist
All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

VOCALISTS

Hymns: Darcy Bartsch
Vocal Response: Deb Degan
Gloria Patri and Doxology:
Chris Blumm and Dana Dahl

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