

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Second Sunday of Easter
April 11, 2021
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

“Whispering Hope”

A. Hawthorne

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: At the beginning of the day, at the beginning of the week,
the faithful yet fearful people gathered together.
It was then that the Spirit of God came among them and whispered:

Reader: Peace be with you.

Leader: Their hearts skipped a beat as they double checked that
the lock on the front door was still latched.
So the Presence of God spoke a little louder:

Reader: Peace be with you.

Leader: They looked around at each other, puzzled, amazed, befuddled,
and bewildered. Some smiled. Some doubted. Some wondered if it were
just too magical sounding or too good to be true.
So the Christ showed them that his own scars were not
the end of the story and that is when the words of God began to feel joyous:

Reader: Peace be with you.

Leader: From that day on, the people of God repeated the words to
one another when they gathered. From one generation to the next,
they exchanged the words as a greeting to one another to remember
that Holy interruption to fear:

Reader: Peace be with you!

***HYMN— NO. 515**

“Hymn of Promise”

In the bulb, there is a flower
In the seed, an apple tree
In cocoons, a hidden promise
Butterflies will soon be free
In the cold and snow of winter
There's a spring that waits to be
Unrevealed until its season
Something God alone can see

There's a song in every silence
Seeking word and melody
There's a dawn in every darkness
Bringing hope to you and me

From the past will come the future
What it holds, a mystery
Unrevealed until its season
Something God alone can see

In our end is our beginning
In our time, infinity
In our doubt, there is believing
In our life, eternity
In our death, a resurrection
At the last, a victory
Unrevealed until its season
Something God alone can see

INVOCATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Holy One, our confession won't be news to you,
but maybe if we allow it to be spoken aloud,
You can help us find a way forward.

Reader: **Holy One, we have doubts.**
We're not talking about doubts like Thomas—
his were perfectly reasonable—after all we too long to see You,
touch You, and truly know You.

Leader: Our doubts feel different. We doubt that the peace you offer
is really possible because our own minds are a mess of thoughts.

Reader: **We doubt that new life is possible because the wounds**
we bear are still overwhelming.

Leader: We doubt that You really intended to call us when
You called the disciples to be of service in creating
a new way of being in the world.

Reader: **We hear the age-old stories,**
but we are filled with doubts about ourselves,
and if we are honest, doubts about your Holy possibilities.
Holy One, in these moments of stillness, hear our doubts
and settle our hearts, souls, and minds...

Silence

*During this time examine your hearts. If it seems appropriate,
voice what doubts you are holding on to that may inhibit your connection to God.*

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Leader: In the midst of the disciples' doubts and worries, in the midst of their fear,
the Spirit of God came among them and whispered, "Peace be with you."
Beloved People of God, hear the holy invitation of grace offered
to every generation: Peace be with you.
You are God's beloveds not because of what you have done or not done.

Reader: **You are God's beloveds because of who you are,**
and who you are is a people called and gifted to be a presence of
peace and love in this world. Your shortcomings are forgiven.
Grace abounds. God calls to you. Peace be with you.

*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

“In Christ Alone”

L. Larson

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

John 20:19-31

SERMON

“Behind Closed Doors”

*HYMN—NO. 302

“He Lives”

I serve a risen Saviour, He's in the world today
I know that He is living, whatever men may say
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer
And just the time I need Him He's always near

Refrain: He lives (He lives), He lives (He lives),
Christ Jesus lives today
He walks with me and talks with me
Along life's narrow way
He lives (He lives), He lives (He lives), Salvation to impart
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian Lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ, the King
The Hope of all who seek Him, the Help of all who find
None other is so loving, so good and kind. **(Refrain)**

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

“One in the Bond of Love”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God invites us to bring the fullness of who we are into worship
and to share the fullness of who we are with the world.
So it is God's holy invitation that asks us to pause
and wonder what we want to offer of ourselves to the world.
Time? Presence? Kindness? Financial support? Prayers?
In these moments of quiet and reflection:
what is it that you have to offer this day to bring about God's peace on Earth?

***OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

“Rest”

H. Sorenson

***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**

GOING WITH THE WORD

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: At the beginning of the day, at the beginning of the week,
when the faithful yet fearful people gathered together,
Jesus came among them and whispered an invitation, “Peace be with you.”
But that was only the beginning.
He showed them the scars and marks of his own humanity
and soon he was pointing at theirs as well, telling them
“Just as God once sent me, so I send you.”
Beloved People of God, this hour is only the beginning.
Do not be afraid. You have been called
and you are being sent into this world
to be a force of love, light, hope, and joy.
Go forth into this day and into the world in the name of God,
the one who creates you;
go in the name of the Jesus who shows us the way;
and go in the name of the Holy Spirit,
who is with us now and always.
Peace be with you.

Reader: **Peace be with you.**

***POSTLUDE**

“In Perfect Peace”

L. Smith

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



Announcements

- ⇒ Senior Book Club, April 12–10:00 AM
- ⇒ Search Committee Meeting, April 14–7:00 PM
- ⇒ Rummage Sale set Up, April 14–15
- ⇒ Rummage Sale, April 16–1:00 PM–6:00 PM
April 17- 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor Kerry Richardson (Interim Pastor)
Kathleen Dube, Liturgist
All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

VOCALISTS

Darcy Bartsch, Dana Dahl, Mike & Deb Degan,
Paul Martin, Loretta Smith, & Marilyn Warner

Gloria Patri and Doxology
Chris Blumm and Dana Dahl

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