

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
April 25, 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**

“In His Keeping”

J. Jordan

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: With grace flowing, the poet sings the opening lines of the famous prayer,  
“The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want.”

Reader: **We hear the Psalmist’s contentment  
and wonder about our own.**

Leader: Settled on the ground, with grass tickling their toes, the psalmist rests,  
“God makes me lie down in green pastures. She leads me beside still waters.  
She restores my soul.”

Reader: **We hear their deep need for rest  
and wonder about our own.**

Leader: With a deep sigh, the psalmist declares, “Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil; for you are with me.  
You prepare a table before me. You anoint me. My cup overflows.

Reader: **We recognize their bold courage and wonder about our own.**

Leader: Remembering God’s faithfulness, the psalmist finds words  
“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.”

Reader: **We hear their faithful trust and wonder about our own.**

Leader: Holy Spirit of Rest and Renewal,  
in this time of worship inspire us with words both ancient and new  
so that we may find the words that connect us to You.

Reader: **Amen and amen.**

**\*HYMN— NO. 488**

“I lift My Eyes to the Quiet Hills”

I lift my eyes to the quiet hills  
in the press of a busy day;  
as green hills stand in a dusty land  
so God is my strength and stay.

I lift my eyes to the quiet hills  
to a calm that is mine to share;  
secure and still in the Father’s will  
and kept by the Father’s care.

I lift my eyes to the quiet hills  
with a prayer as I turn to sleep;  
by day, by night, through the dark and light  
my Shepherd will guard his sheep.

## INVOCATION

Holy One, we hear the comforting ancient poetry of the psalmist  
but wonder, is it true?  
Will you really provide for what we need?  
Will you bring us to a place of rest?  
Will you protect us from enemies, even when they share our dinner table?

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess together...

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess that rather than being only filled with holy wonder,  
we are also filled with skepticism at the ancient words.  
We can quickly tally up the times  
we didn't feel provided for or protected from danger.  
We count the times we could not catch a break when we desperately needed it.  
So Holy One, shepherd our busy minds back to the here and now,  
help our spirits forgive the grudges we hold,  
and invite us to experience You as truly present.  
In these moments of quiet, offer us rest for a moment.

*Silence; Take this time to breathe deeply and notice yourself in relation to what is around you.*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Beloved People of God, there is wisdom in our questions, but God is steadfast.  
God's presence is unwavering and will accompany us through every terrifying valley.  
God's spirit is unshakeable and will sit with us even in the presence of formidable foes.  
God's love is relentless and will offer us goodness and mercy all the days of our life.  
Thanks be to God.  
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

"Arise and Shine"

R.K.Besiger

## READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalm 23  
John 10: 11-18

## SERMON

"What Kind of Shepard am I?"

**\*HYMN—NO. 440**

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Savior, like a shepherd lead us  
Much we need Thy tender care  
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us  
For our use Thy folds prepare  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus  
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus  
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are  
We are Thine, who Thou befriend us  
Be the guardian of our way  
Keep Thy flock from sin defend us  
Seek us when we go astray  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus  
Hear, O hear us when we pray  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus  
Hear, O hear us when we pray

**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**

Like a shepherd tending to those in their care,  
God has offered us rest and renewal,  
protection and mercy, love and nourishment.  
In response, we are invited to give a portion of our time, energy, gifts, and prayers  
so that others in this world may experience the same.

**\*OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

“Blessing After Blessing”

V.T. Courtney

**\*DOXOLOGY Tune: OLD HUNDRETH**

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**

Loving God,  
bless these gifts and all the ways in which we give.  
May each of our gifts be a part of co-creating  
and tending to the love, safety, belonging, and dignity  
You envision for the world. Amen.

## GOING WITH THE WORD

### \*BENEDICTION

As you depart from this place, go with courage and go with trust that the God who created you is also the One who will sustain you and the One who will show you the way.

Until we meet again, may you be filled with curiosity, wonder, and openness to God's tender leading.

**Amen and amen**

### \*POSTLUDE

"All Hail The Power of Jesus Name"

O. Holden

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



## Announcements

- ◆ Book Club, April 26—10:00 AM
- ◆ Search Committee Meeting, April 28, 7:00 PM
- ◆ Worship/Communion, May 2, 9:30 AM

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### 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

The Second Congregational Church in Wilton,  
United Church of Christ

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### VOCALISTS

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

**Gloria Patri and Doxology**  
Chris Blumm and Dana Dahl

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

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