

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Third Sunday of Easter
April 18, 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

“Sonatine”

H. Chretien

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Christ is Risen and greets us with peace.

Reader: **The peace of Christ is among us, indeed.**

One: We are witnesses of God’s glory and steadfast love.

Reader: **The transforming love of Christ is among us, indeed!**

One: Come, let us worship.

***HYMN— NO. 1**

“God Is Here”

God is here! As we your people meet to offer
Praise and prayer, may we find in fuller measure
What it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world
Around us, all our varied skills and arts wait the
Coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of
Change and doubt, keep us faithful to the Gospel;
Help us work your purpose out. Here, in this day’s
Dedication, all we have to give, receive; we, who
Cannot live with out you, we adore you! We believe!

INVOCATION

One: God of love and light,
we come as witnesses of your glory and faithfulness,
amazed to discover your transformative love.
God, we desire for you to abide within us,
and for your grace to be revealed anew daily.

Reader: **Be with us and awaken within us the call to love one another,
in the way it was made real through Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Ever-present God,
Forgive us when we stand in disbelief,
and comfort us when our fears outweigh your peace.
God, forgive us when we become too busy to pray.
Help us when we fail to see our neighbors in need.
Abiding God, forgive us when we are overwhelmed
with bad news and shut down completely.

Reader: In these times, remind us that we are called to be
your love-lived,
your faithful witnesses, and
your humble servants.
Help us to wake up to the work of love,
and to your renewing strength each day, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

O God, hear our prayers of repentance and forgiveness,
and awaken us from doubt, disbelief, and distress
by transforming us into your resurrection joy!
God, we desire for your loving spirit
to be among us, to comfort us in our fears,
and to renew our faith. 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

“My Lord, What A Morning”

African-American Spiritual

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:35-48

SERMON

“Do You Wish To Be A Witness?”

*HYMN—NO. 306

“Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!”

Alleluia! Jesus is Risen! Trumpets
Resounding in glorious light! Splendor, the Lamb,
Heaven forever! Oh what a miracle God has in sight!
Jesus is risen and we shall arise;
Give God the glory! Alleluia

Walking the way, Christ in the center telling the
Story to open our eyes; breaking our bread,
Giving us glory; Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.
Jesus is risen and we shall arise;
Give God the glory! Alleluia

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

Today, we are reminded of the joy surrounding the witnesses to Jesus' resurrection! We remember that before their resurrection joy, these witnesses experienced grief at the cross. Witnessing the Risen Christ in their midst challenges the disciples to turn their disbelief into joyful belief. Witnessing the Risen Christ challenges the disciples to turn their fear into a courageous proclamation of God's glory. God calls forth a transformative love that marks a change in the ways of repentance and forgiveness, by witnessing the Good News of salvation for everyone, everywhere.

So, let us give thanks for God's steadfast love by being witnesses to those who are hungry for food, encouragement, and relationship. Let us also witness to those who are poor in spirit, by allowing God's Spirit to loosen our grip on belongings and possessions, in order to awaken every troubled heart. And lastly, let us offer ourselves in gratitude and with generosity, as witnesses to God's goodness by our joyful giving

*OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Up Above My Head”

M. Hayes

*DOXOLOGY Tune: OLD HUNDREDDTH

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

God of abundant love,
We offer a portion of our time, spiritual gifts, and resources
as a sign of our love for you and the world.
O God, we give you our thanks for all that we have
and ask a special blessing on these offerings.
And God, we ask that our collective offering
be an expression of healing, that brings hope to a hurting world.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

***BENEDICTION**

Let us go forth rich in spirit,
knowing God has a plan for our lives.
And, let us go forth as witnesses to God's hope
of justice, peace, grace, and love.
Believing fully that Christ is among all humanity,
now and always. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

“Gigue”

GF. Handel

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



Announcements

- ◆ Council Meeting, April 20—7:00 PM
- ◆ Rummage Sale, April 23—1:00 PM—6:00 PM
April 24- 9:00 AM-2:00 PM
- ◆ Book Club, April 26—10:00 AM

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor Kerry Richardson (Interim Pastor)
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music
Pastor Ingrid Howard, Liturgist
All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

The Second Congregational Church in Wilton,
United Church of Christ

25 Gregg Street
P. O. Box 246
Wilton, NH 03086

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:

Email for Church Administration
Del Mogavero, 2ccwilton@gmail.com
Church Phone Number: 603-654-9045
Website: 2ccwilton.org
Pastor Kerry: 603-620-0235
Email: kerrywrichardson@comcast.net

