

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
April 4, 2021  
Easter Sunday  
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**

“This Is The Day”

V. McKenzie

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Christ is Risen!

Reader: **Christ is risen, indeed!**

One: Hope is alive!

**Hope is alive, indeed!**

One: God’s love is eternal!

**Hallelujah!**

**Let us give thanks for what God has done**

**\*HYMN NO 298**

**The Day of Resurrection**

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;  
the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal, from sin’s dominion free.  
our Christ has brought us over, with hymns of victory.

Now let the heavens be joyful! Let earth the song begin!  
Let the round world keep triumph, and all that is therein!  
Let all things seen and unseen their notes in gladness blend,  
for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end.

**INVOCATION**

God of grace and power,  
we come rejoicing in Christ’s empty tomb.  
We come trusting in the good news  
that tells us Christ is with us.  
For the Risen Christ is living proof  
that You care about our lives, O God.  
The Risen Christ offers to us glimpses of hope,  
even in our tears.  
As the tomb is not quiet.  
It speaks. It proclaims!  
It is a promise of eternal life!

Reader: **Thank you, gracious and almighty God. Amen.**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Let us confess together...

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: God of resurrection grace,  
Help us in our pain, despair and fear  
so that we are not prone to follow the path of hopelessness.  
Help us, to instead, be like the Risen Christ,  
and rise up, as a brave and holy people,  
living beyond our pain, despair and fear  
by remaining hopeful in your steadfast love.

Reader: Help us, we pray. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God hears our prayers of grace and mercy,  
and raises our countenance from despair, into resurrection joy!  
God meets us in our human suffering, comforts us in our tears,

Reader: Hallelujah!

## \*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

“Crown Him Lord, This Easter Day”

Besig/Price

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

John 20:1-18

SERMON

“Where Do We Find Jesus”

\*HYMN NO. 288

“Christ The Lord Has Risen Today”

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!  
All creation joins to say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing, ye heavens, and earth, reply, Alleluia!

Love’s redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids His rise, Alleluia!  
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
Once He died our souls to save, Alleluia!  
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER

**VOCAL RESPONSE**

“Hear Our Prayer, O Lord”

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

On this day, we remember that Mary Magdalene arrives at the tomb with the intent to anoint the crucified body of Jesus; and astonished, she finds an empty tomb where Jesus once laid. Now what?  
God’s angels and the Risen Christ meet Mary Magdalene in her sorrow, and speak hope into her heart.  
For the Resurrection narrative reveals that love is alive and moves among us! The Risen Christ helps us to remember that despair is not the end of our journey. The Risen Christ also speaks of God’s ever-present love, and gives the church resurrection hope.  
In that, as an Easter people, we manifest God’s never-ending love in the world by the giving of our time, talents, and financial resources.  
For it is with Christ’s limitless and restorative love, that we humbly and graciously offer back to God a portion of what God has given us.

**\*OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

“In The Garden”

A. Miles

**\*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**

God of love,  
We offer our gifts of time, spiritual gifts, and financial gifts as a sign of our love for you and the world.  
We ask a special blessing on these gifts where you meet us in our suffering, and raise us up, so that all may come to know of your abiding love.

**Reader: O God, we give these gifts as you have given them unto us.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**\*HYMN NO. 704**

“We Meet As Friends At Table”

We meet as friends at table, to listen, and be heard,  
United by the Spirit, attentive to the Word. Through  
Prayer and conversation we tune our varied views to  
Christ, whose love has made us the bearers of good news.

With food and drink for sharing the table soon is spread. The  
Freedom meal of Jesus is crowned with wine and bread, and  
All without exception, may eat, and speak, and stay, for  
This is Christ’s own table where none are turned away.

We share our lives and longings, and when the meal is done we  
Pray as friends at table, and promise to be one. To  
Christ and to each other, we cheerfully belong;  
Apart our hope is fruitless; together we are strong.

Fulfilled, and glad to follow wherever Christ may lead, we  
Journey from the table to love a world in need with  
Patience, truth and kindness, that justice may increase and

All may sit at table in freedom, joy, and peace.

## COMMUNION PRAYER

### DIALOGUE

One: Christ is Risen!

Reader: **Christ is risen indeed!**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### PREFACE

Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit;

Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love:

We praise you for Jesus Christ, who reminds us that even in fear-filled days, cloaked with the powers of death, your eternal love arises, and never leaves us.

For we rejoice with all your people and with the angels, because life is stronger than death!

As we proclaim the glory of your name:

### SANCTUS

Holy is Jesus, God Incarnate, the Risen Christ,  
whose mercy gathers us together in community,  
whose grace meets us in our brokenness,  
and whose loving faithfulness gives us renewed hope.

### STORY OF THE MEAL

In this meal, we remember Jesus, his promises,  
and the price he paid for who he was, what he said,  
and what he did; for our benefit.

On the night before Jesus died,  
He took a loaf of bread,  
Gave thanks, broke it, and said,

“Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.  
Do this, in remembrance of me.”

After supper, Jesus took the cup and poured, saying,

“This is the cup of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this in remembrance of me.”

In sharing this meal, we live out the mystery of our faith:

Reader: **We remember Christ’s life of love, and friendship, and teaching,  
We remember Christ’s dying, and rising to life again.**

### PRAYER TO THE SPIRIT

Bless this bread and this cup,  
the wheat and the grape, the farmer and the harvest,  
the seed and the sower.

These simple elements are shared in community,

so that we may taste and see your goodness  
and become one body in Christ.

**Reader:** For it is through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
that all glory is yours, God most holy,  
now and forevermore. Amen.

#### 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.

#### BREAKING AND POURING

**One:** The body of Christ,  
**Reader:** the bread of life.

**One:** The lifeblood of Christ,  
**Reader:** the cup of blessing.

**One:** The gifts of God for the people of God.  
**Reader:** Thanks be to God.

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray:  
O Christ, we thank you for this feast of life.  
Fed by your love and strengthened by your life;  
we humbly accept your call to go  
into this world to live with hope, and to share your joy.

**Reader:** You commission us to feed as we have been fed,  
forgive as we have been forgiven, and love as we have been loved.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.

#### GOING WITH THE WORD

##### \*BENEDICTION

May God's abiding love and hope give us new life.  
May God's unmerited grace and mercy keep us hope-filled.  
And may God's restorative justice bring to us all, perfect peace.  
For Christ is risen! Praise God!

**Reader:** Hallelujah!

##### \*POSTLUDE

"Blest Be His Name"

C. Norman

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



## Announcements

**Blood Drive, April 10—Parish Hall**

**Choir Meeting at Church, April 10—12:30 PM**

**Deacon's Meeting, April 11—Following Worship**

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### **PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Pastor Kerry Richardson (Interim Pastor)  
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music  
Peter, 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, Deb & Mike Degan,  
Paul Martin, Loretta Smith, & Marilyn Warner  
**Gloria Patri and Doxology**  
Chris Blumm and Dana Dahl

### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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