

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 16, 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

“Adagio”

L. Beethoven

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We come and seek the ways of wisdom.
Reader: **We come as one Body in Christ.**
One: We come to find peace and sing songs of love.
Reader: **We come to be refreshed by the Spirit.**
One: Come, let us worship.

***HYMN NO: 254**

“Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley.
He Had To Walk It By Himself;
O, Nobody Else Could Walk It For Him,
He Had To Walk It By Himself.

Jesus prayed for his disciples; he prayed alone
For you and me. O, nobody else could bear such
Sorrow; he prayed alone for you and me.

Jesus died on Calvary’ mountain; he died alone
For you and me. O, nobody else could die for
Sinners; he had to die for you and me.

INVOCATION

One: Life-giving God, your love and light guides us on the path of courage, compassion, generosity, and grace.
Lead us as we seek to follow your transformative love that turns sorrow into joy, and despair into hope.
O God, help us embrace your guiding love that calls us to live as your faithful witnesses, who reflect your grace and redemptive love.

Reader: **God, open hearts to receive your gracious love, and strengthen us to carry the Good News of your healing power found in the light, love and life of Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Gracious God, we confess our doubts that stifle our joy.
Forgive us when we lack faith in you, and comfort us
when our fears outweigh our praise.
God, forgive us when we fail to trust you,
and help us when we do not live as your faithful witnesses.
Guiding God, forgive us when we are self-consumed
and lack the time needed to serve our neighbors.

Reader: In these times, have mercy on us, O God,
and encourage us to be your love-lived,
by renewing us daily in your strength. We pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

O God, hear our prayers of confession and forgiveness,
and guide us from disbelief and distress
by leading us into your hope-filled joy.
God, we need your loving Spirit
to be among us, to comfort us in our doubt,
and to strengthen us in our faith. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI TUNE: GREATOR EX

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

“Morning Has Broken”

J. Leavitt

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

John 17:6-9

SERMON

“Come Together”

*HYMN NO. 244

“O Love, How Deep, How Broad”

O Love, how deep, how broad, how high, how passing
Thought and fantasy; that God, the Son of
God, should take our mortal form for mortals' sake.

For us he prayed, for us he taught, for us his
Daily works he wrought, by words and signs and
Actions, thus still seeking not himself, but us.

All Glory to our Lord and God for love so
Deep, so high, so broad the Trinity whom
We adore forever and forever more

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

“Hymn of Promise”

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Today, we hear Jesus pray for the disciples to be guided by God.
A story about a mother and child offers an example of Jesus's prayer.
A small child is trying to lift a heavy stone that he could not budge.
His mother stopped to watch his efforts.
Finally, she asked her son, “Are you using all your strength?”
And the boy says, “Yes, I am using every bit of energy and strength I have.”
And the more he talked, the more he sounded tired and worn out.
Then the mother said to the child,
“No, you are not using all of your strength,
because you have not asked me to help!”
So, the boy asked his mother to help, but still that stone could not be moved.
Then the mother asked her older child to help, but still they could not move it.
Then, a neighbor was asked to help, then another neighbor, and another,
and finally, with each one giving all their energy and strength to the project,
the stone was moved!
After everyone left, the mother turned to her young child and said,
“You see, when we all work together, when we use our strength together,
we can accomplish some things
that not one of us by ourselves could accomplish alone.”

And so, as the beloved community,
let us join together in moving away the heavy stones of life
that become stumbling blocks to our faith,
by serving as witnesses to God's love through our grateful giving.

*OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Gospel Light”

M. McDonald

*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

Dear God,
We offer our generous gifts as a sign of our gratitude
for creating us to care for one another. We pray your blessings
upon these gifts, and hope they serve as our love for you and the world.
Redeeming God, we ask that these gracious offerings be a witness to your
healing and faithful love in order to bring hope to a hurting world.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

*BENEDICTION

Let us go forth in the world, giving thanks that we have come.
Let us go forth renewed in spirit, knowing that we belong to God.
And, let us go forth as witnesses, carrying the light of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*POSTLUDE

“Canzonet”

A. Rosewig

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



Announcements

Council Meeting, May 18—7:00 PM

Deacons Meeting, May 23—following worship

In Person Worship begins—June 6th, 9:30 AM

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

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

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:

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

The Second Congregational Church in Wilton,
United Church of Christ

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

