

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Day Of Pentecost
May 23, 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

“Change My Heart O God”

E. Boughton

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Here we gather for song and scripture,
seeking comfort and hope, seeking to be inspired as well as challenged.

Reader: **Here we gather to retell the ancient tales
and wonder how God’s story continues to unfold.**

Leader: Today we tell the story of Pentecost,
the story of the Holy Spirit rushing in like a wild wind
and dancing like flames upon each of the disciples,

Reader: **And we will ask ourselves
where we see the Holy Spirit present our world today.**

Leader: Today we tell a story of the Holy Spirit igniting hope again.
We will hear Peter claim his identity, tell his story,
and inspire others to see the Holy Spirit at work in the world.

Reader: **And we will ask ourselves
if we are ready to share our own stories.**

Leader: Friends, welcome.
Welcome to this place with all questions, doubts, wonders,
and find here an invitation to experience something
ancient and something new. May we be open to the Spirit.
May we be open to learning and learning from one another.
May we grow in faith, hope, and love.

Reader: **Amen.**

***HYMN NO: 106**

“All Hail the Power of Jesus Name”

All hail the power of Jesus’ name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all;
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball,
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all;
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!

O that with yonder sacred throng we at this feet may fall!
We’ll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all;
We’ll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all!

INVOCATION

Holy Wisdom of God, you call to us from the depths of our hearts, where we long for connection with you and with one another. You call to us from busy streets and neighborhoods, where human pain and possibility are most urgent. You call to us from our sacred stories, where God, Christ, Spirit create, challenge, comfort. Guide us, we pray, on an adventure of hope, and help us see with your eyes the ways which lead to beloved community where Christ Jesus is at the center.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- Leader Spirit of God, our prayers often ask You to be present in our lives and in our world. But we confess that we are terrified that You might actually show up.
- Reader **We remember the stories of You appearing as a burning bush, and then Moses and Sarah leaving everything familiar behind.**
- Leader We remember the stories of You kindling the imagination of the prophets, and then each putting their lives on the line.
- Reader **We remember the stories of You igniting courage within Shiphrah and Puah, Deborah and Esther, Elizabeth and Mary, and then each challenging the status quo.**
- Leader We remember the stories of You sparking action within the early Church, compelling them all to embrace something completely foreign and new.
- Reader **We confess, Dear Spirit, we are afraid You will call us to move outside our comfort zones. We are afraid You will kindle a passion within us we will be unable to ignore. We are afraid that You will rearrange our lives beyond recognition. Forgive us for the fears that have been holding us back from inviting You truly into our lives...**

Silence

Please take this time to examine your hearts, and, if it seems appropriate, to name what fears you are holding on to that may inhibit your connection to the Spirit of God.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Beloved people of God, find comfort in the news that the Spirit of God may be a formidable force, but She moves alongside people and equips those who are open to the work ahead. Peter, known more for his denial and disbelief than his bravery, suddenly had courage with the Spirit alongside him. The disciples, not known for being gifted communicators, suddenly broke down barriers with the Spirit alongside them. Beloveds, do not be afraid. Remain curious. Be open to the surprise. Celebrate that God is indeed about to do a new thing with you.

*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

“My Shepherd, You Supply My Need”

T. Alonso

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:1-21

SERMON

“OH The Many Voices!”

*HYMN NO. 132

“Spirit of God Descend Upon my Heart”

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart,
Free it from sin, through all its pulses move.
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as you are,
And make me love you as I ought to love.

I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
No sudden rending of the veil of clay,
No angel visitant, no opening skies,
But take the dimness of my soul away

Teach me to love you as your angels love,
One holy passion filling all my frame.
The baptism of the heaven descended Dove,
My heart an altar, and your love the flame.

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

As people of God, we are called by the Spirit to continue the work of Jesus and the disciples who sought to build up beloved community. We are each equipped by the Spirit with particular skills, gifts, passions, abilities, and experiences to continue that work. In these moments of quiet and reflection: what is it that you have been gifted with and are open to offering this day to bring about God's beloved community on Earth?

*OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“The Spirit of The Lord”

Scholtes/McDonald

*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

Generous God, we share what we have because we wish to serve you with the best we have to offer. Bless our gifts and offerings that they may become a bountiful feast for all who need to be filled with good things. Open our eyes to see the strangers you call us to welcome. Em-

power us to receive them as you do, with radically inclusive hospitality.
May we recognize and delight in the gifts they share with us. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

*BENEDICTION

That Pentecost day, with the Spirit in the air,
the disciples were suddenly clear about their stories
and their intention to share their stories with the world.
Maybe it was the rushing wind that had jolted them out of complacency.
Maybe it was the dancing tongues of fire that landed on each one
that ignited them to action. Maybe it was the hope
that comes with having the Companion, the Advocate, nearby.
Whichever it was, the disciples found their authentic voices
and soon after discovered they had a story to share with the world.
Go forth into this day, with the Spirit in the air,
to share your stories of God's love with the world.
Go forth 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.

*POSTLUDE

“Sortie”

Nordman

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

Announcements

Deacons Meeting, May 23—following worship
Search Committee Meeting, May 26—7:00 PM
In Person Worship begins—June 6th, 9:30 AM

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor Kerry Richardson (Interim Pastor)
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music
Becky Kennedy, 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

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