

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Second June 6, 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

“This is My Father’s World”

M. Babcock

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come, let us worship our God with joy and thanksgiving:
Everything in us says

All: **Thank you!**

One: At worship in this sacred place we say it again:

All: **Thank you!**

One: For your love, for your faithfulness;

All: **Thank you!**

One: When earth’s rulers hear what you have to say, O GOD,
They’ll sing of what you’ve done:

All: **How great the glory of GOD!**

One: Finish what you started in us, GOD.

Your love is eternal—stay with us, now, that we may say

All: **Thank you!**

Based on Psalm 138, The Message.

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***HYMN NO. 602**

“Who is my Mother, Who is My Brother”

Who is my mother, who is my brother?
All those who gather round Jesus Christ:
Spirit blown people born from the gospel
Sit at the table, round Jesus Christ

Differently abled, differently labeled
Widen the circle round Jesus Christ,
Crutches and stigmas, cultures’ enigmas
All come together round Jesus Christ.

Love will relate us color or status
Can’t segregate us, round Jesus Christ:
Family failings, human derailings
All are accepted, round Jesus Christ.

Bound by one vision, met for one mission
We claim each other, round Jesus Christ:
Here is my mother, here is my brother,
Kindred in Spirit, through Jesus Christ.

INVOCATION

I believed; therefore I have spoken. Since we have that same spirit of faith. We also believe and therefore speak. All this is for your benefit, so that grace will reach more and more people. That it may cause thanksgiving to OVERFLOW to the glory of god. We do not lose heart, outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

(based on 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leadership and governance is on everyone's mind these days.
Competing visions of the common good strive for our attention.
Like the people of Israel in today's text, we may be tempted to seek rulers whose ways are not the ways of God.

(silence)

LITANY OF CONFESSION

One: When we forget that God's ways lead all, to the blessings of justice and mercy:

All: Lord have mercy.

One: When we forget that God's ways lead all, especially the most vulnerable, to blessings of safety, health, meaningful work:

All: Christ have mercy.

One: When we forget that God's ways lead all, to the blessings of the shared abundance of God's beloved creation:

All: Lord have mercy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus reminds us: "Who is my mother, and who are my sisters and brothers? All those who do the will of God are my brother and sister and mother."
In Christ we are forgiven all our failed efforts at community, and invited afresh to rejoin the family of God, seeking blessing for all.

*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 Lord, What a Morning"

African American Spiritual
arr. D.P. Hosted

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Mark 3: 20-35

SERMON

"What is More Important?"

*HYMN NO. 596

"Help Us Accept Each Other"

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
Teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
Who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
We need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
Renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

"Hymn of Promise"

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

St Paul writes of confidence in the power of God
revealed in the resurrection of Jesus
that must underlie a life of faithfulness and generosity:
"I believed, and so I spoke".
Today, let us believe, and give with generosity
that God's goodness may be known in the world.

*OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"My Jesus, I Love Thee"

A. J. Gordan

*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, take our gifts this day and use them
so that we may be part of your great work in this world.
Through our giving, bring justice and love closer to all,
not just in our community but in the world beyond these walls.
Strengthen our church and the whole United Church of Christ
so that we grow together each day
into a powerful voice for healing and peace. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

*HYMN NO. 692

"Eat This Bread and Never Hunger"

Refrain: Eat this bread and never hunger, drink this cup and never thirst;
Christ invites us to the table where the last become the first.

Asking for a cup of water,
Jesus touched forbidden ground;
And the woman,
With a question, told the world what she had found. (Refrain)

Waling down a desert highway,
Jesus healed a man born blind; soo the man
Became a witness to the truth we seek and find. (Refrain)

Weeping for his friend at graveside,
Jesus felt the pain of death; yet he knew God's
Power to waken: living water living breath. (Refrain)

COMMUNION PRAYER

SANCTUS

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

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.

All: 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**

Finish what you started in us, GOD.
Your love is eternal—go with us, now, into the world,
that we may say
Thank you!

***POSTLUDE**

“My Inmost Heart Now Raises”

J.C. Back