

**ORDER OF WORSHIP
Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost,
World Communion Sunday
October 3, 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

*The creation stories in Genesis 1-3 have become the source of much contention over the years. For many, such political and theological conflicts are the first thing that comes to mind when these narratives are mentioned. For others, the use of gender, particularly in Genesis 2-3, has been hurtful and oppressive. Yet much of the rhetoric that so many have found to be harmful is more in the interpretation of the text than in the text itself and contemporary interpreters have uncovered other potential layers of meaning that can be life-giving and empowering. In her 1986 book, *God and The Rhetoric of Sexuality*, Phyllis Trible argued that Genesis 2:7 describes God's creation of a human being and that therefore this week's lectionary reading is less about the creation of woman from man, and more about the creation of gender in the splitting of that first human into two beings. Whether or not one agrees with Trible's reading of Genesis 2, the creation of two people from one creates something new in addition to a second person; it creates mutual relationship. This first relationship is unique specifically in its mutuality, as made clear by the text's insistence that it is necessary in spite of the already existing divine-human relationship, and its vivid description of all of the animals God creates in verses 19 and 20, none of whom are found to be fitting partners. When the two humans finally meet in verse 23, it is a meeting of equals. Their relationship is unlike that humans have with God or animals, "This at last is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh." In this way, Genesis 2 describes the divine creation of relationship, of community, of intimate communication, of sharing. Each of these are also meanings of the word we use to describe the sacred meal we celebrate this week: communion. It is the moment in which we look at one another and at our world community and say that we together are the body of Christ, "This at last is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh!"*

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We were created in relationship and for relationship.

All: **We are created for community!**

Leader: God knew it was not right for us to be alone.

All: **We are created for community!**

Leader: Through Jesus Christ, God entered into human relationship with us.

All: **We are created for community!**

Leader: We rejoice in our unity with all humanity.

All: **We are created for community!**

***HYMN NO. 267**

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

INVOCATION

(Unison)

Holy spirit be with us in this place as we seek your word and it’s meaning. Let us welcome all of your creation as you welcome us. Help us to open our hearts and minds to not just those of us in the pew, but beyond these four walls! Let us be aware as we partake of your meal that it is being done around the world by all of your creation, that we truly are ONE people. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God-made-flesh, Bone of our bone,
We confess that we think we can go it alone,
That we try to do it all,
That in doing so, we neglect the gifts you have given us:
The bone of our bone, The flesh of our flesh,
The bodies you created,
And the relationships you created us for.

**Jesus Christ, you who lived in a human body,
Call us to community.
Remind us that in you we are one.
Awake in us a respect for one another,
And celebrate with us the diversity within that unity.
May it be so now and forever. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

You are the divine creation, and it is not right for you to be alone.
Know now that you are forgiven and called back into relationship
with God and with one another.

***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

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Mark 10:2-6

SERMON

“Would You Leave A Child Alone”

***HYMN NO. 437**

“Jesus Loves Me”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

In communion with one another, let us share what we have received,
knowing that we are one flesh with all humanity.

*OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*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 all creation, breathe your life-giving breath upon these gifts
that they might be a blessing to all flesh.

HOLY COMMUNION

*HYMN NO. 689

“One Bread, One Body”

CALL TO THE TABLE

OUR STORY OF COMMUNION AND CONNECTION

Leader: First, God created one person.

All: **But it was not right for that one person to be alone.**

Leader: That person had God, but needed an equal, so God made animals.

All: **How about a [Giraffe], a [Raven], a [Dog]...?**

Leader: But it still wasn't enough, so God made another person, an equal,
someone to share with, and talk with.

God created relationship. God created communion.

All: **This at last is bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh!**

Leader: And then God took it one step further.

God looked at the many people
living in relationship with one another
and decided to join the community!

God came to be with us as one of us,
and his human family called him Jesus.

All: **This at last is bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh!**

Silence

Leader: And one night, when Jesus sat with his community,
he took bread, and broke it, and blessed it, saying,
This is my body."

Then he took the cup, saying, "This is my blood."

All: **This at last is bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh!**

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit, and make us one body of Christ.

All: **This at last is bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh!**

Leader: Bone of our bone; flesh of our flesh:

one with each other and all humanity: the Body of Christ.

All: ***“Bone of our bone; Flesh of our flesh: The Body of Christ!”***

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

*HYMN NO. 473

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

GOING WITH THE WORD

*BENEDICTION

As you leave this sacred space,
live out your connection with one another,
knowing that all humanity is
bone of our bone, flesh of our flesh,
one world communion. **Amen!**

*POSTLUDE

The Altar Flowers this morning are given
by Kathleen Dube

Announcements

If you need or want a visit by the pastor please contact the church office 603-654-9045 or the pastor directly at 603-620-0235

On The Calendar

- Fall Dinner Play Rehearsal, Oct 3, 4:00 PM
- Worship at Cathedral of the Pines
October 10, 10:30 AM
- Fall Dinner Play Rehearsal, Oct 10, 4:00 PM
- Senior Book Club, Oct 11, 10:00 AM via Zoom
- Budget Meeting, Oct 14, 7:00 PM Via Zoom
- Walk For Open Cupboard, October 16

OPEN CUPBOARD PANTRY (OCP)

The OCP is an emergency food source for residents of Temple, Wilton, Lyndeborough and Greenfield. It was founded in 1996 and is currently occupying space in the Wilton Falls Building across from the Police Station. The OCP is staffed solely by volunteers.

All are welcome, no one in an emergency situation has ever been turned away. People coming to the OCP have different needs. Some come once a year, some once a month and some come every two weeks. Families who come regularly must meet state income guidelines.

The OCP is totally supported through donations from generous individuals and organizations in the towns served. All donations are tax deductible.

What Hunger Looks Like in New Hampshire

In New Hampshire, 119,990 people are facing hunger - and of them 27,980 are children.

1 in 11 people face hunger.

1 in 9 children face hunger



Our "Walk for Open Cupboard" will help to stock the Pantry for the fall and winter. The Second Congregation Church Missions group is organizing the walk.

What can I do to help?

Ask friends and family to sponsor you on the walk. All proceeds will go directly to the Open Cupboard Pantry through the Wilton Lions Charitable Foundation.

When is the walk?

The walk will be on October 16, rain or shine. Registration begins at 9:00 at the flats adjacent to the elementary school in Wilton.

What if I cannot walk very far?

There will be two routes planned. One will be around the school, the longer route will go down Maple Street and back up to the school. There will be crossing guards as needed.

Where do I get sponsor forms?

Forms will be available at the Wilton Library, FRES, and the Wilton Lyndeborough Coop School. And our website:

<https://2ccwilton.org/open-cupboard-pantry/>

Who do I contact with more questions?

For more information, please contact Cindy Broderick, 654-6204 or Stephanie Ouellette, 654-2282.

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

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

All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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