

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 19, 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

CENTERING MEDITATION

It is absolutely impossible for someone who has grown up in an environment of honesty, respect, and affection ever to feel driven to torment a weaker person in such a way as to inflict lifelong damage. [This person] has learned very early on that it is right and proper to provide the small, helpless creature with protection and guidance; this knowledge, stored at that early stage in...mind and body, will remain effective for the rest of this life.

Banished Knowledge, Alice Miller

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Jesus challenges us in today's gospel:

Many: **Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.**

One: Then Jesus took a little child and put it among them;
and taking the child in his arms, he said to them:

Many: **Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.
And whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.**

One: We are still learning today what Jesus came to teach us two thousand years ago.
To change the world we must change the way we love and welcome all children!

Many: **May we learn to love all children as if they were our own!**

***HYMN NO. 162**

"like A child"

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Dear God,

Jesus has called us to welcome children as a way to welcome you.
So please, hear our voices as we would welcome the children:
We welcome all you in the name of Jesus Christ!

Teach us the way to make the last first and to be servants of all.
Guide us in your way of humility and service.
Show us how to become disciples of Jesus Christ
your Child and our brother.

We ask for blessings on all your children in our holy family. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us think about all the children in our own lives, our community's life, and in our world. What are their needs; where do we fail as individuals and community in welcome, nurture and care for them?

(Silence)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(UNISON)

Dear God,
We often have not welcomed the children as Jesus has commanded.
Too many children in our community and world
suffer from violence, abuse, neglect and poverty.
We know that if we were to join together to welcome and care,
to celebrate and honor our children we would save ourselves
and our world. We need forgiveness. We want to make amends.
We want to change. We want to learn to welcome all children,
for in loving and caring for them,
we welcome your reign of justice and peace.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We give thanks for our savior and teacher Jesus Christ,
who was born among us as a child needing nurture and care,
and grew to reveal your power to make all things new.
We give thanks and rejoice that in Christ we are forgiven
and given strength to grow in discipleship.
Thanks be to God!

*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 9:30-37

SERMON

"Is It Just To Familiar?"

*HYMN NO. 708

"Go Forth For God"

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.

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

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.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

(Unison)

O God, you who have given us life,
you who have made every child a holy child,
we give you thanks. We have opened our hearts now and given generously to you
and to your church - for the sake of the children who are our future.

***HYMN NO. 711**

“Savior, Again to Your Dear Name”

GOING WITH THE WORD

***BENEDICTION**

Go forth and welcome all God’s children,
making the last, first, and becoming a servant to all.
Like Jesus, take a little child and put her among you;
take her into your arms, and remember,
Whoever welcomes one such child welcomes God!
Go forth to change the world as Jesus has commanded by
offering welcome, justice and compassion
to all children and to the “least of these.”
Go forth in God’s welcome and love.

***POSTLUDE**

Praising God's glory the flowers are given by Michael and Cindy Broderick in memory of loved ones.

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, Sept 19, 4:00 PM
- Council Meeting, Sept 21, 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 9childrenface 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
Dana Dahl, Liturgist
All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Email for Church Administration
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