

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 26, 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

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: If it had not been God who was on our side,
Many: **The troubles of our world would have swallowed us whole.**

One: If it had not been God who was on our side,
Many: **The Sorrows of our times would have swept us away.**

One: Are any among us suffering?
Many: **Come and pray.**

One: Are any among us cheerful?
Many: **Come sing songs of praise.**

One: Are any among us sick?
Many: **Come and ask for healing.**

One: Our help is in our God,
Many: **The One who made Heaven and earth.**

One: Call upon God, creator and rescuer
God is on our side.

***HYMN NO. 389**

“Put Peace into each Other’s Hands”

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

(Unison)

**Eternal God, you create us and you rescue us. Be here with us now.
Help us know how much we need you. Teach us that no other power
can support us like your power. As you share your power with us,
teach us to be Christ to the world.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Esther 7 & 9, Psalm 124, Mark 9)

Creating and rescuing God, your power amazes us. Yet even in our amazement, we take too long to turn to you, forgetting that you are the power that makes and saves and sustains us. Even when we claim your power, we often do so for our own success and comfort, ignoring your command to use your power on behalf of the weak, the small, and the vulnerable. In Jesus Christ, you show us that you are on the side of all people, but never at the expense of the weakest among us. Forgive us when we try to hoard you for ourselves and try to control who has access to your love. Forgive us when our greed, our control, and our scandals keep others from knowing you. Redeem us and transform us, O God. Open our hearts, our lives, and our ministries, that we may become a doorway to your realm.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(Esther 7 & 9, James 5)

God turns our sorrow into gladness and our times of mourning into celebration. God hears the prayer of faith. Be confident as we pray for one another, for God heals us.

***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 9:38-50

SERMON

“Just Add Salt”

***HYMN NO. 394**

“God of All Time”

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

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

(Esther 7 & 9, Psalm 124)

Jesus Christ is on our side, offering us the love of God - a love that gives us all we have, a love that makes us all we are. Jesus Christ is with us in every circumstance, suffering with us when we are in trouble, and rejoicing with us when we are glad. The generosity of Christ calls us to lives of gratitude and generosity. In Jesus Christ we are given new life. Let us celebrate this life by giving generously to the work of God's redeeming love.

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

(Esther 7 & 9, Psalm 124, Marl 9)

Giving God, we can never match your generosity. When we are in need,
You are at our side, present to use even in our darkest moments.
You rescue us from harm. Make us into a people who celebrate your
goodness, drawing others into the celebration of your many blessings.
Receive our offerings, even if they are as small as a drink for someone who
thirsts. Transform them into the mystery of your reign here and now on
earth, in the name of Jesus, your greatest gift, amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

*BENEDICTION

God has created all things.
God has rescued us from sin and suffering.
Let us go forth, seeking to be on God's side.

Jesus Christ finds us when we wander far from God.
Let us go forth, seeking to be on God's side.

The Holy Spirit empowers us to welcome all into the reign of God's love.

*POSTLUDE

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 26, 4:00 PM
- Senior Book Club, Sept. 27, 10:00 AM via Zoom
- Worship at Cathedral of the Pines
October 10, 10:30 AM
- Walk For Open Cupboard, October 16

OPEN CUPBOARD PANTRY (COP)

The COP 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 COP is staffed solely by volunteers.

All are welcome, no one in an emergency situation has ever been turned away. People coming to the COP 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 COP 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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