

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost**  
October 31, 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**

Leader: Hear, O people of God: our God is one.  
Hear the commandments of our God.

All: **First, love your God with all your heart,  
and with all your soul, and with all your mind,  
and with all your strength .**

Leader: Hear, O people of God: our God is one.  
Recite the commandments to your children  
and hold them in your hearts.

All: **Second, love your neighbor as yourself.**

**\*HYMN NO. 461** "Breathe On Me, Breath of God"

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

O Holy One, Source of all life and Ground of all love,  
we thank you for your love that never lets us go.  
Thank you for the privilege of gathering in this space  
with these your people - our neighbors - to worship you.  
We do not come merely to open the doors of the church,  
but we come that our hearts might be opened to you and to one another.  
As we worship you today, help us to respond to the call of love  
- to love you, our neighbors, and ourselves.  
May we be transformed from individuals to members of your one body.  
We pray for our nation that we be united as a people tied  
to a single garment of destiny.  
We pray for those who we elect to serve all citizens  
that they may be guided not by ego, politics or money,  
but by compassion for all people.  
Guide us as families, as a community of faith, as a nation  
to follow the path of love. **Amen.**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Let us Confess together...

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Again and again you call us  
to care for widows and orphans,  
to advocate for those in prison,  
to welcome the strangers.

All: **God, we hear your call,  
but all around us we hear the cry  
that there is not enough for all, and that some are undeserving.**

Leader: Again and again you call us to love you with our whole heart,  
understanding, and strength; such love demands that we seek justice  
for those who are oppressed, poor, and forgotten.

All: **God, we hear your call,  
But all around us are competing calls  
of worldly loyalties, political parties, and public acclaim.**

Leader: Again and again, you urge us to seek you first.  
We long to trust the path of love for you and our neighbors as ourselves.

All: **Yet we fear that our “land of milk and honey”  
Has become a land of moral famine and economic hardship,  
And we wonder at times if you have abandoned us.**

Leader: Again and again you urge us not to lean on our own understanding  
but in all our ways to acknowledge you, and yet

All: **We are often distracted by the clamor of fear dressed up as reason.**

Leader: As we prepare our hearts and minds in these days,  
at times we forget to observe  
your statutes of compassion and your ordinances of justice.

All: **Again, you remind us to follow you  
so that it may go well for us, our neighbors, our nation, and our world.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the word of God for this season and all seasons:  
“Do not be afraid! I will never leave you or forsake you.”  
Know that our God who began a good work in us is able to complete it.  
As we open ourselves to the Spirit of God,  
may we see more fully the wonder of God already at work in us.  
And so it is. **Amen.**

## \*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.**

## ALL SAINT'S DAY CANDLE LIGHTING

## ENGAGING THE WORD

### ANTHEM

### READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Mark 12:28-34

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." "You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices. When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

### SERMON

"Finally! Someone gets it!"

### \*HYMN NO. 587

"Make Me A Channel of Your Peace"

### 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 TO THE OFFERING

The invitation to bring our tithes, pledges, and offerings is an invitation to support one another, those within this community and beyond, to become all of what we are called to be. Our tithes, pledges, and offerings—both monetary and other—enable us to give thanks to God for the resources we have been given and enable us to be resources for others. As we give to this ministry, we help others become what they can be and we become more of what we can be. Give generously and watch the miracles of God unfold in our lives and our ministry together.

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

### \*DOXOLOGY Tune: OLD HUNDRETH

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)

Thank you, O God, for the gifts of your people.  
Help us that we rely not on our own understanding in the use of these gifts, but to seek your wisdom. Knowing that as we do, your will be revealed and your people near and far will be blessed.  
Amen.

**\*HYMN NO. 515**

“Hymn of Promise”

**GOING WITH THE WORD**

**\*BENEDICTION**

Go forth, following as the Holy Spirit leads you, moving in love and compassion, pursuing justice and mercy, and trusting in the God of peace. For the Source of all life and love is as close as your very breath. Breathe deeply. **Amen.**

**\*POSTLUDE**

Praising God's glory the flowers are given by Marilyn, Steve, Darcy Bartsch and family 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, Oct 31, 4:00 PM
- Fall Dinner Play Set up, Nov 4
- Budget Meeting, Nov 4, 7:00 PM, via Zoom
- Fall Dinner Plays, Nov 4–6, 7:00 PM

**PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Pastor Kerry Richardson (Interim Pastor)  
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music  
Joshua Bartsch, Liturgist  
All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

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