



Second Congregational Church in Wilton,
United Church of Christ

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Third Sunday of Lent
March 20, 2022
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**

Isaiah 55, Psalm 63

One: Come, everyone who thirsts,
Come to the waters. Come to the wells.

All: **Our souls thirst for you, O God.**
We lift up our hands and call on your name.

One: Come, without money. Come without cost.
Incline your ears and listen for good news.

All: **Our flesh faints for you, O God.**
Our lips sing praises, beholding your glory.

One: Come, eat good. Come, feast upon true riches.
Be filled with that which sustains you.

All: **Our souls are satisfied in you, O God.**
In the shadow of your wings,
we sing with joy.

***HYMN** "Breathe on me, Breath of God" NO. 461

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Author of abundance, God of change, we come
into this hour with holy expectations. As we
travel on our journey of transformation this
Lenten season, we know that you are with us.

You walk beside us. Your presence surrounds us. Help us to bear fruit as we walk this road. Remind us that you will never leave us nor forsakes us, that your rod and your staff comfort us, that you have prepared a feast for us when all can come and eat. Keep us forever in the path as we worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION/CHANGE

One: God, you call us to step more deeply into ourselves as we amend and awaken to who you desire us to be. Let us acknowledge our transgressions in stillness and in silence so that we may prepare our hearts for change.

Moment of silence

All: We confess that we have not always brought forth good fruit. In the midst of chaos and frenzy, we have often lost our way. Our feet have strayed from the place where we met you. Our egos have kept us from seeing our missteps; Yet, with you, we know there's another chance for change. There is another opportunity to bear good fruit in a world full of spoiled and rotten produce, and systems designed to kill. We are called to be the change that sustains generations. Let us lean with you into this chance for transformation.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God's grace and mercy abounds.
God is with us in the change.
God's everlasting arms embrace us.
Each of us is beloved, affirmed, and set free.
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.

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Luke 13:1-9

Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.” Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’ “‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”

SERMON

“The Meaning of Life”

***HYMN**

“Our Father, We Have Wandered”

NO. 371

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

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.

Call TO THE OFFERING

As recipients of the generosity of God, let us
share our generosity with each other and the
community.

***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**

One: For the wondrous ways this offering
will bless this community

All: **We dedicate these gifts.**

One: For the ways it'll help us nurture
caring relationships with our neighbors

All: **We dedicate these gifts.**

Let this offering, and the works of our hands
and feet, be good fruit in the world.

***HYMN**

“We Come, O Christ, to You”

NO. 110

GOING WITH THE WORD

*BENEDICTION

As we go forth to bear good fruit,
May God be with us in our hunger and thirst.
May our ears be ever inclined, listening for
the good news. May praises be on our lips even
in the bleakest valley. And May the God of peace
equip us with every good thing to carry out God's
desire for the world. Amen.

*POSTLUDE

Announcements

If you need or want a visit by the pastor
please contact the church office 603-654-9045
and leave a message or call the pastor directly at
603-620-0235
(Messages are usually returned by the next business day)

On The Calendar

Spring Play Rehearsal, March 20 and 27, 4:00 PM
Senior Book Club, March 28, 10:00 AM, via Zoom
Deacon's Meeting, March 28, 7:00 PM, via Zoom

Refocus for Lent

Give up complaining – focus on gratitude

Give up harsh judgements – think kind thoughts

Give up worry – trust God to provide

Give up discouragement – be full of hope

Give up bitterness – turn to forgiveness

Give up hatred – return good for evil

Give up anger – be more patient

Give up pettiness – become mature

Give up jealousy – pray for trust

Give up gossiping – control your tongue

Give up sin – turn to virtue

Give up giving up – persevere

Author unknown



PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

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

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Email for Church Administration
Del Mogavero, 2ccwilton@gmail.com
Church Phone Number: 603-654-9045
Website: 2ccwilton.org
Pastor Kerry: 603-620-0235
Email: kerrywrichardson@comcast.net

The Second Congregational Church in Wilton,
United Church of Christ
25 Gregg Street
P. O. Box 246
Wilton, NH 03086

