



Second Congregational Church in Wilton,
United Church of Christ

ORDER OF WORSHIP
First Sunday of Lent
March 6, 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**

One: We may be entering this season arid,
dry from pain and injustices.

Many: And yet, God is still hydrating our spirits.

One: We may be wandering,
feeling as if we have no direction.

Many: And yet, God is guiding us in the wilderness.

One: We may be fearful, wondering what comes next.

Many: And yet, God is surrounding us with peace.

One: We may begin our Lenten journey spiritually arid,
aimless, and anxious.

**Many: But the Spirit of Strength will never
leave our side.**

***HYMN “Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights” NO. 250**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Divine Sojourner,
As we saunter far into the wilderness, may your light sustain us. May the questions that fill our minds with doubt drift away into the sands of the journey. May we dig within our souls to remove the prejudices deep within us. However we wander in this season, may your Holy Glow refocus our attention on our relationship with you and the ways we connect with our siblings. Amen.

PRAYER OF REFLECTION AND GROWTH

God of the Road, we journey together into the wilderness again. In this time filled with new spiritual practices and studies, our minds will be “tested.” Doubts will creep in as we seek your presence. At times, we will slide away from our responsibilities to care for our neighbors. “Keep awake,” you call to us. And so we ask ourselves:

*Will hurtful words from others taunt us,
and inhibit our growth with you?
Will negative images in our minds draw
us away from our practices?
Will we snooze to the needs of this world
and ignore the pain in our communities?*

Deliver us from the temptations of this world and the tests that we impose upon ourselves. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE

When we aimlessly wander throughout this Lenten journey, God follows us - even into the depths of the wilderness. May we see God’s presence, knowing we are never alone on arid days and in barren lands. 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 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'" an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'" The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered, "It is said: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

SERMON

"Why Do I do What I do?"

***HYMN**

"When Jesus Came to Jordan"

NO. 241

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Deuteronomy 26:2 (NRSV) declares this:
“...you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name.” How do we spend our “first fruits”- the best in which we have? Have we kept it for ourselves? Have we dedicated these gifts to God and shared them with our neighbors who lack basic necessities? How is God calling us to share the best we possess?

***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

Holy Stream of Gifts,
We share our gratitude for all of our fruits -
from our possessions to knowledge and from our
time to abilities. May our “best” be something that
we do not hoard but that we freely give away.
As we embrace this season of fasting and reflection,
may we recognize the best of our talents, treasures,
and time and share with God and neighbor. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

*HYMN “There’s a Quiet Understanding” NO. 701

CALL TO THE TABLE

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

We Give Thanks, God of Job and Jeremiah, David’s Lord, Anna’s Christ, Luke’s Savior, that we have found your house in many places. We have found places of prayer with the swallows and the sparrows. We have sung your praise in a quiet circle under the stars. We have enjoyed the choir of many voices and the joyous sounds of musical instruments and found inspiration and refreshment. Along our pilgrim way you provide the cup that sustains both soul and body. We are happy when we trust in you. Amen

*HYMN “Now Let Us From This Table Rise” NO. 715

GOING WITH THE WORD

*BENEDICTION

As we wander on this journey,
May God the Divine Light open our souls to healing and
wisdom. May Christ the Sojourner lead us into oases of
renewal in arid and barren times. May the Spirit of Hope
fill us with courage to carry on. As Jesus embraced the
struggles of the wilderness, may we find strength to
abide in our wilderness of the soul. Amen.

*POSTLUDE

Praising God's glory the flowers are given by Sue Warren
in loving memory of her brothers,
Robert L. & David C. Warren.

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 6, March 13, 4:00 PM
Daylights Saving Time Begins, March 13
Senior Book Club, March 14, 10:00 AM, via Zoom
Council Meeting, March 15, 7:00 PM, via Zoom
St. Patrick's Day, March 17
Church Retreat, Part-Time is Plenty, March 19, Sanctuary

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor Kerry Richardson (Interim Pastor)
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music
Chris Blumm, Liturgist
Lamar Smith, Assisting with Communion
All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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