



Second Congregational Church in Wilton,  
United Church of Christ

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
**March 27, 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 (Inspired by Psalm 32)**

One: Happy are those who experience the grace of God

**Many: Who find forgiveness and mercy  
from the Holy One.**

One: Happy are those who experience the  
steadfast love of God

**Many: Who find peace even in times of trial.**

One: Happy are those who experience rest in God

**Many: Who find sabbath to renew their spirit.**

**\*HYMN**            "When Peace Like a River"            NO. 428

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**Unison**

Holy God, Holy Renewal,  
After times of broken relationships, painful injustices,  
and feeling deserted, we enter this season yearning  
for restoration and your comforting grace.  
In this time of wilderness and reflection, we evaluate  
the relationships between us and our neighbors.  
Fill our weary souls with hope. Lead us on roads of  
renewal, and focus our minds as we ponder our  
callings in your realm. Amen.

## PRAYER OF REFLECTION AND GROWTH

Holy Breath of Life,  
There are moments when our decisions do not take into consideration the well-being of our neighbors. There are times when our reactions turn inward instead of building healthy reconciliation.

*How is it that we are holding back our neighbor's rebirth?  
How are our implicit and explicit biases restricting God's grace and radical love? How do our actions and biases impede our own spiritual growth?*

Urge us to be life-giving agents of your love. May each of our steps be healing not only to us, but to our siblings on the journey. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

God, our Divine Parent, runs towards us with infinite love and grace. May the mercy we experience transform our minds, hearts, and souls. May we extend God's grace as we run towards our Divine Parent.

## \*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 15: 1-3, 11-32

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Then Jesus told them this parable:...

“There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate. “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you

kill the fattened calf for him!’ “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

**SERMON**

“You Don’t Know What You Have Until It’s Gone”

**\*HYMN**

“Just As I Am”

NO. 354

**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.

**REFLECTION ON GIVING**

Even when our gifts become dormant,  
God our Divine Parent stirs our hearts, calling us  
to bring to life our gifts once again. What gifts may God  
be challenging us to revive? How can these treasures,  
talents, and time create equitable communities?

**\*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**

Loving God, Holy Fountain of Blessings,  
With gratitude, we celebrate the offerings we share  
with you and this community today. May they enliven  
our spirits, building excitement around us, and creating  
a culture of giving. Open us to new possibilities for using  
our gifts to build the dignity of all and to strengthen  
our neighborhoods. Amen.

**\*HYMN**                      “God of the Sparrow”                      NO. 29

**GOING WITH THE WORD**

**\*BENEDICTION**

May our spirits come alive in this season of Lent  
When we run to God, our Divine Parent, with the hopes  
of strengthening our bonds, When we embrace the Christ,  
our Divine Neighbor, with the hopes of reconciliation,  
When we breathe with the Spirit, our Divine Encourager,  
in the hopes of peace. 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 27, 4:00 PM  
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  
Becky Kennedy, Liturgist  
All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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