



**Blessed are those
who have not seen and yet
have come to believe.**

John 20:29, NRSV

*Second Congregational Church in Wilton,
United Church of Christ*

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Second Sunday of Easter Sunday
April 24, 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: Coming on the clouds or walking on the roads,

Many: The Christ is in our midst.

One: Inside of sanctuaries or outside of church buildings

Many: The Christ is in our midst

One: In heaven's realm or the cyber universe

Many: The Christ is in our midst.

***HYMN** "Were You There? " NO. 283

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (UNISON)

**God of the visible and invisible,
We gaze upon roads ahead
Knowing that you are ahead of us.
We seek your presence when the fog is heavy
And our hearts are hurting.
In the moments of haze, Clear the path before us.
In the moments of clarity, Show your face to us.
Allow us to hear your voice in the depths of night
As we search for your presence and call. Amen.**

PRAYER OF REFLECTION AND GROWTH

(UNISON)

Spirit of Serenity-

You tell us “peace be with you,” but we set that peace aside to live with drama and chaos. We are drawn to highly emotional situations instead of the peace that only comes from you. How can we set aside turmoil to live within your realm of peace? When we cannot sense your holy tranquility surrounding us, open our souls to your warm and calming presence. May we embrace your peace and scatter serenity into our world. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The God who walks with us scatters the seeds of grace behind us and before us, allowing us to understand the future with healing and hope. 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

John 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” Jesus Appears to Thomas

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

SERMON "Have I Been Like Thomas?"

***HYMN "The Strife is O'er" NO. 290**

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

***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.

***REFLECTION ON GIVING**

(UNISON)

We hold many gifts in our hearts and minds. As we sense your presence surrounding us, may we discern ways to use our talents and treasures for the health of your realm. With gratitude we pray:
Holy God, Holy Light
Even when our surroundings are murky, you shine around us. Even in the long nights of discernment and wonder, you make your presence known, calling us to use all of our gifts to enhance this world. May the gifts we share today and each day hereafter create a Church of grace and a Community of love. Amen.

***HYMN**

“Because You Live, O Christ ”

NO. 292

GOING WITH THE WORD

***BENEDICTION**

No matter the brightness of the day
Or the clear skies of night, Our God is moving with us,
The Christ is calling to us “Peace be with you,”
And the Holy Spirit is surrounding us.
May Divine Serenity be our companion as we build the realm of God on earth. 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)

Today we will be taking our Mission Possible Offering during
the first Anthem.

On The Calendar

Missions, assemble Hygiene Kits, April 24, Following Worship
Deacons Meeting, April 25, 7:00 PM via Zoom



PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

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

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