



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

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 15, 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: God of Life, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.

**All: But you did not make me a puppet,
do not control my sitting and rising,
You, in your goodness do not desire my thoughts
to be captive.**

One: You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
you know it completely.

**All: You find pleasure in who I am,
In you and in me, there is no disgust,
shame or condemnation in your creation.**

One: You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
This intimacy and security is hard to grasp.

All: Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
When I am living my best life, you are there;
When I struggle to find meaning or care,
you are there. If I take the wings of my wildest
imagination and settle at the farthest limits of
what love and humanity can be,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.

One: If I say, “I will lie about who I am, even to myself,
so you cannot find me” even my deceit cannot
deceive you; You see through all my masks as
truth, for all I am is truth to you.

All: For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.
With her consent and when she willed my body
to be carried in hers. You were with her too, not
using her, but with her. In her choices you set
your wisdom.

(Moment of silence)

All: I come to the end—I am still with you.

***HYMN** “Child of Blessing, Child of Promise” NO. 677

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (UNISON)

Spirit of Joy-
Basking in your presence, we dance in the knowledge
that your presence dwells with us. We celebrate your
name, your grace, your love in this space with our
siblings. We proclaim our excitement that we, together,
can glorify your name through sharing your love. May
this minute be the start of a new chapter of our love for
you and our love for our neighbors. Amen.

PRAYER OF REFLECTION AND GROWTH

God of Awe and Harmony-

We were given the great commandment to love one another the way you, the Christ, the Spirit loves us. And yet, the way we love becomes conditional.

What events have distorted our view of Divine Love? How can we return to a simple but radical way of loving? Transform our hearts as we work to understand one another, creating an earth which reflects God's heaven. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

The Spirit of God heals our hearts, blessing us with grace as the Divine One works to transform our world into a realm of peace and joy. 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

Acts 11:1-18

The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him and said, "You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them." Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. Then I heard a voice telling me,

‘Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.’ “I replied, ‘Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’

“The voice spoke from heaven a second time, ‘Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.’ This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again.

“Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying.

The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man’s house. He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.’“As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with[the Holy Spirit.’

So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God’s way?” When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, “So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

SERMON “”

***HYMN** “All Things Bring and Beautiful” NO. 30

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

We have the tools we need to love one another. Through our talents, treasures, and time, we can create God's Realm here on earth. Our contributions - no matter the size - will craft a world which reflects God's love.

***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)

Loving God, Holy Vessel of Kindness-
We glorify you by sharing our gifts of love with this community. We celebrate your presence by caring for your creation. May these offerings today nourish a world craving more love, peace, justice, and hope. Amen.

***HYMN** "There is a Balm in Gilead" NO. 631

GOING WITH THE WORD

***BENEDICTION**

As the week begins again,
May we dance as we celebrate God's presence.
May we sing as we proclaim Christ's love.
May we create as we embrace the Spirit's vision.
May we love boldly, care radically, and share
courageously to glorify the Spirit of God in our midst.
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)

ALL CHURCH MEETING

Information has been sent out to all church members
regarding ONA. There will be an all church meeting
immediately following service on **Sunday, June 12, 2022**.
At that time a vote will be taken to approve or disapprove
of ONA designation for our church.
Please come and vote - your vote matters

On The Calendar

Council Meeting, May 17, 7:00 PM via Zoom
Rummage Sale, May 21, 9 AM–2 PM

Covenant

We are a church, believing that each of us is created in
God's Image. We celebrate everyone, including people
of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations,
cognitive or emotional abilities, education or spiritual
and religious traditions. All are welcome to participate
fully in the life, leadership, ministry and mission of this
church as we seek to grow together in a safe and
nurturing community of faith. We strive to demonstrate
in all ways that "no matter who you are or where you
are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"

Accepted into by-laws, June 2021

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor Kerry Richardson (Interim Pastor)
Guest Speakers Dana Dahl and Trevor Schofield
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music
Lori Dick, Liturgist
All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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