

Second Congregational Church in Wilton, United Church of Christ Open and Affirming

ORDER OF WORSHIP The Fourth Sunday After Pentecost July 3, 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: Make a joyful sound to the Holy One.

Let the earth rejoice.

Many: How awesome are your works, O Sovereign!

One: Creation groans under the pressure of war,

environmental abuse, and communal

disconnection.

Many: We cry out to you, Present God,

and you hear and respond.

One: You turn our mourning into movement and

stir our souls to action and to rest.

Many: Everlasting God, we will give thanks and

praise you for you clothe us

in joy and peace.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Please stay in place say to a person who makes eye contact:

"The Peace of Christ be with you"

The receiver of the blessing then echoes back the gesture to you, and bows their head, responding:

"And also with you."

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

(UNISON)

God with us, you send us into the world as your agents of restoration and change. You speak to us in the stillness of our rest and the chaos of a frenzied world. You guide us in troubling times, and you move us to dance in celebration. We give thanks for your presence among us. Open all points of receptivity within us as we worship you, Holy and Living God. Amen.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

Spirit of the Living God, temptation surrounds us. Self-preservation lures us to indifference. Fear of confrontation coaxes us to keep silent about things that matter. The desire to be right entices us to ignore the cries of our neighbors. Too often we ignore the call to go and to be in favor of staying stuck in our attitudes and behaviors. Too often, we are the ones who refuse to welcome you into our intimate space, who resist the work of transformation, and who remain unresponsive to the burdens of our siblings in creation. Spirit of Gentleness, redirect us back to the path of life, the way of justice, and the hope of peace.

SILENT PRAYER

...in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

(UNISON)

Our Companion and Advocate takes this journey with us. Our invitation to make the kingdom of God our dwelling place continually renews. The Righteous One opens the door and eases our entry into new life, new mercy, and new grace.

*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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

"Tortoise and the Eagle"

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

"I have told you this while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything that I have told you. I'm leaving you at peace. I'm giving you my own peace. I'm not giving it to you as the world gives. So don't let your hearts be troubled, and don't be afraid. You have heard me tell you, 'I'm going away, but I'm coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I'm going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I am. I've told you this now, before I leave, so that when I do leave, you will believe.

John 16:29-33

John 14:25-29

Jesus' disciples said, "Well, now you're speaking plainly and not using figurative language. Now we know that you know everything and don't need to have anyone ask you any questions. Because of this, we believe that you have come from God." Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? Listen, the time is coming, indeed it has already come, when you will be scattered, each of you to his own home, and you will leave me all by myself. Yet I'm not alone, because the Father is with me. I have told you this so that through me you may have peace. In the world you'll have trouble but be courageous—I've overcome the world!"

SERMON "Finding Freedom and Peace"

*HYMN "Lift Every Voice and Sing" NO. 729

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER

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.

PRAYER RESPONSE

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*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)

Creator, bless these gifts that we bring to this community and the world. May our time be used preciously, our treasure shared faithfully, and our talents demonstrated gloriously in your name. Amen.

*HYMN "America, The Beautiful" NO. 727

GOING WITH THE WORD

*BENEDICTION

Go on your way into the harvest as laborers bringing good news into a world of need. Go on your way as companions of one another, of the Spirit, and of Christ. Go on your way in the assurance that the God of peace goes with you, before you, and behind you. Go in peace.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Give Peace A Chance Lennon/McCartney

*POSTLUDE

Announcements

Communion will be on July 10th

Project Linus Workshop

Church Missions is working with Wilton Collaborative Space to offer a Project Linus workshop. The group will meet twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesday, beginning July 12 at 10:00 in the church hall. Come join us for this worthwhile project. No experience needed. For more information please speak with Stephanie Ouellette to sign up.

Church Pictures/Memorabilia

we will continue to go through pictures and memorabilia each Sunday after the service until we get the majority of items labeled.

On The Calendar

Office Closed—July 4th
Project Linus Workshop—July 12, 10:00 AM—Parish Hall

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Dana Dahl (Worship Leader) Violet Blake, Liturgist Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music

All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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