



*The* heavens declare the glory  
of God; the skies proclaim the work of his  
hands.

Psalm 19:1, NIV

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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**The Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost**  
**August 21, 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: O God, we thank you for this earth, our home;

**Many: For the wide sky and the blessed sun,  
For the salt sea and the running water,**

One: For the everlasting hills  
And the never-resting winds,

**Many: For trees and the common grass underfoot.**

One: We thank you for our senses  
By which we hear the songs of birds,

**Many: And see the splendor of the summer fields,  
And taste of the autumn fruits,  
And rejoice in the feel of the snow,  
And smell the breath of the spring.**

One: Grant us a heart wide open to all this beauty;  
And save our souls from being so blind  
That we pass unseeing  
When even the common thorn bush  
Is aflame with your glory,

**Many: O God our creator,  
Who lives and reigns forever and ever.**

**\*HYMN**

**“How Great Thou Art”**

**NO. 51**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**(UNISON)**

Loving Father and Creator of all, we come to you today deeply grateful for your creation. As we look around us we are amazed at the greatness and majesty of all that you have made. Nature around us speaks of your greatness - the vast expanse of the sky, the mountains, trees, lakes and streams speak of your great design. You have given us such beauty in the colors of the rainbow, the beauty of flowers and fields. Words cannot adequately express the magnificence of all you have created. We join in praise with the writer of the psalms when he says, "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth." May we show our love and reverence to you, our Lord, by caring for all that you have created. We humbly give you praise and thanks. Amen.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**(UNISON)**

When we are unkind to people,  
and forget they are God’s children,  
When we are careless with the beasts,  
and forget they are God’s creation,  
When we ill-treat the land,  
and forget the splendour of God,  
Forgive us, O God of love,  
and reconcile us to yourself,  
to one another and to the Creation.  
Teach us that the earth and all its fullness is yours,  
the world and all who dwell in it.  
Remind us that your Son too enjoyed the fruits of the  
harvest in Galilee and joins us now as we celebrate your  
good gifts together. Call us again to safeguard the gift of  
life, now and forever. Amen

## **WORDS OF GRACE**

Being human means being vulnerable. The COVID virus, climate change, and other big crises reveal there are forces beyond our personal control. It is humbling and overwhelming. Jesus Christ teaches us to trust God and invest in the things we can control - like our actions and intentions. No matter what is going on we can care, we can help, we can embody the love of God because God loves us. Today, let us take comfort in eternal forces of goodness. Let us trust in the grace of God's faithfulness, especially when we are vulnerable. 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**

Psalm 19:1-6

The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the skies announce what his hands have made.  
Day after day they tell the story;  
night after night they tell it again.  
They have no speech or words;  
they have no voice to be heard.  
But their message goes out through all the world;  
their words go everywhere on earth.  
The sky is like a home for the sun.  
The sun comes out like a bridegroom from his bedroom.  
It rejoices like an athlete eager to run a race.  
The sun rises at one end of the sky  
and follows its path to the other end.  
Nothing hides from its heat.

Job 12:7-15

But ask the animals, and they will teach you,  
or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you;  
or speak to the earth, and it will teach you,  
or let the fish in the sea inform you.  
Which of all these does not know  
that the hand of the Lord has done this?  
In his hand is the life of every creature  
and the breath of all mankind.  
Does not the ear test words  
as the tongue tastes food?  
Is not wisdom found among the aged?  
Does not long life bring understanding?

To God belong wisdom and power;  
counsel and understanding are his.  
What he tears down cannot be rebuilt;  
those he imprisons cannot be released.  
If he holds back the waters, there is drought;  
if he lets them loose, they devastate the land.

**SERMON**            “For the Beauty of the Earth”

**\*HYMN**            “For the Beauty of the Earth”        NO. 40

**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 GENEROSITY**

And now, not because we have to, but because we are grateful, let us return to God what is ours to share. Let us joyfully offer our time, our treasure, our commitment, our prayers.

**\*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)

God, thank you, thank you, thank you - for your grace, for this community of faith, for the gifts of our lives. Bless these offerings today that they might be used to further your reign of righteousness here and now. Work through each of us and through the ministries of this congregation that we might glorify you in all we do. Amen.

**\*HYMN**

“America, the Beautiful”

**NO. 727**

**GOING WITH THE WORD**

**\*BENEDICTION**

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

**\*POSTLUDE**

## Announcements

### Mark the Date!

Sunday August 28th our service will be held at  
10:30 AM at Cathedral of the Pines.

### 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

Rummage Sale Set up Dates—

August 19, 6:00 PM and August 20

Rummage Sale — August 20, 8:00 AM—2:00 PM

Cathedral of the Pines Worship Service — August 28, 10:30 AM

**PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Kermit Williams, Worship Leader  
, Liturgist  
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music

All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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