



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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**The Tenth Sunday After Pentecost**  
**August 14, 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: In a world uprooted at every turn,  
come beloved of God for replanting.
- Many: **Our hope and weariness are mixed together,  
yet we come, trusting ancient promises.**
- One: The Holy One who led the people out of Egypt,  
yearns to lead us, too.
- Many: **God will not rest until all are rerooted,  
restored, and renewed for rejoicing.**
- One: Let us be joined to God's song of justice,  
bearing beauty into the life of the world.
- Many: **May our lives be formed for faithfulness  
by the One who is always faithful.**

**\*HYMN**            "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"            **NO. 344**

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

(UNISON)

Loving and Gracious God, form a new song of soul within us. Take every fragment of our lives and fashion a new creation. Plant us deep in the soil of Your love, that your living water might rise in us, forming a fruit of possibility unimaginable on our own. Grant us grace to trust your promised presence already meeting us here, now, and always. By this, gift us with a new strength of heart for whatever Your love demands. Amen.

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Being human, we never find it easy to ask for forgiveness. But as God's children, called to live in relationship with one another, we know we must speak of how we have hurt others, so we might be forgiven and restored to new life. Please join me as we pray the prayer of confession together.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

(UNISON)

Gardener God, You plant us in a gifted place, but often we return sour grapes. In the midst of Your abundance, we complain of not having enough or being enough. Your call “to give justice to the weak and the orphan; to maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute” is easily overlooked or ignored. We are uprooted by our own inaction, selfishness, and fear. Re-root our hearts, our minds, and our lives in the soil of Your forgiving love. Bear up in us a boldness to sing a song strange to the world but known by You. Let it be the song of shalom, the chorus of Christ-love, a hallelujah rising as the world is mended by our consent to You. Yes, plant this anew in us today.

## **WORDS OF GRACE**

Hear this good word. God can never cease to be love. God has no joy in plants uprooted or journeys detoured by distraction. The ancient promise of God proclaimed again and again throughout history still rings true. Nothing can separate us from the love of God, made known to us in

Christ Jesus. God forgives you and is already planting you anew. This is the good news and you can trust it with your life. Thanks be to God!

**\*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 82**

God presides in the great assembly;  
he renders judgment among the “gods”:

“How long will you] defend the unjust  
and show partiality to the wicked?

Defend the weak and the fatherless;  
uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.

Rescue the weak and the needy;  
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

“The ‘gods’ know nothing, they understand nothing.  
They walk about in darkness;  
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

“I said, ‘You are “gods”;  
you are all sons of the Most High.’

But you will die like mere mortals;  
you will fall like every other ruler.”

Rise up, O God, judge the earth,  
for all the nations are your inheritance.

**SERMON** "A Servant's Heart"

**\*HYMN** "Will You Let Me Be Your Servant" NO. 391

**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**

**CALL TO THE OFFERING**

We live in a more than enough world, created by a God  
who lavishes abundance. Today, we are privileged to join  
God's motion of generosity. When we add our gifts, God  
multiplies them for good, and joy mysteriously rises. This is  
God's will and way. May we be joined to it.

**\*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)

We thank you, Loving God, that sourness gives way to  
sweetness when we answer Your call to be generous.  
Multiply these gifts and Your spirit in us, that the world  
may know your life-giving will and way.

**\*HYMN**

“We’re Marching to Zion”

**NO. 390**

**GOING WITH THE WORD**

**\*BENEDICTION**

May you remember, God has planted Your life and given  
you a song to sing into the world. May it be a song of  
healing and hope, of justice and joy. And may you discover  
yourself blessed again and again as you find yourself  
joined on the journey with Jesus.  
Blessings on you, beloved of God.

**\*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

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

Praising God's glory the flowers are given by  
George and Dana Dahl in celebration  
of their 35th wedding anniversary.

## **PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Joshua Bartsch, Worship Leader  
Ingrid Howard, Liturgist  
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music

All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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