



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

ORDER OF WORSHIP
The Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 11, 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: Come, Beloved of God, the blistering wind
of life is not the end.

Many: **May the eye of the storm still us into
wholeness and hope.**

One: May the wind of God, turn us around toward
trust in Holy promises.

Many: **May our promises to God be pressed anew
into our hearts and minds.**

One: May everything of excess be released
and refined for Love's good work.

Many: **May God's vision of a world made new arise
from God's wind in and through us.**

***HYMN**

“America, The Beautiful”

NO. 727

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

(UNISON)

O Holy Wind of God, sweep through our lives. Pause us into your presence, slowing our breathless pace. Refine in us a renewed willingness to bear gracious goodness into the chaos of the world. Let our memories on this day, call forth an alternative to the easy response of violence for violence. Form instead a steady commitment to return love in the face of fear, hope in the midst of despair, and mercy for every brokenness of the world’s design. By this, form anew the heart and mind of Christ in us, here, now, today.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(UNISON)

O God, have mercy on me because transgressions and wrong turns have too often been my daily detour. Wash me inside and out with the shower of Your love because my life carries a residue of regret I cannot shake loose on my own. I know myself too well, rehearsing littleness of spirit with a frequency surprising even to me. Now take every burden that crushes and form in me a new creation. Take every iniquity and instill your sweet song of forgiveness. Let your wisdom rise in my mind and your mercy in my heart that I may offer the same grace to others whom you also love. By this grace you give, mend not only me but the world. And may Your loving truth form a new creation in us all.

WORDS OF GRACE

Hear this good news: God’s memory of our misdeeds and misdirection is short. But God’s loving grace is long and stretches over our whole lives. In Christ Jesus, God has let loose a stream of love that perpetually flows as a patient, persistent, power. By this, God has forgiven us and invites you and me to join in the journey of justice and joy. May this blessed forgiveness multiply itself in our life with others. Thanks be to God!

***GLORIA PATRI TUNE: GREATOR EX**

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

Soloist: Joshua Bartsch

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Luke 15:1-10

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” Then Jesus told them this parable: “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. The Parable of the Lost Coin “Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

SERMON

“A Day of Remembrance”

***HYMN**

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

NO. 500

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

Our lives are gifts not of our making. But by our consent
to Love's deep desire we are indeed remade. God is
generous in this way, searching out every lost sheep or coin
or beloved child until the fullness of joy rises in
celebration. So we are invited to share in the sacred
savoring that comes with self-giving that begins and ends in
God. May our yes of giving grow Love's delight in us.

***OFFERTORY ANTHEM** "Song for the Unsung Hero"

***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)

O Love, stretch wide my heart, open my mind,
saturate my soul and form me anew in the gift of this day.
Let thanksgivings rise for miracles you place in my path at
every turn. Call forth awe at the miracle of life stirring all
around and within this body not of my making, but given
by You to steward Your love for a season short or long.
“Yes...thank you...Love,” let this be my prayer, even as
words fail to capture You in me and in all creation
seen and unseen and beyond what eye can see
But which soul can sense in silences beyond words.
Yes, Love, stretch wide my heart for this. And thank-you.

***HYMN**

“Amazing Grace”

NO. 422

GOING WITH THE WORD

***BENEDICTION**

May the wind of God be strong in you. May it be neither
too little nor too much for the gift of each day that is
your life. May it be strong enough to deepen your root in
God. May it be gentle enough for you to catch the breath
of life. May it teach you how to breathe the grace and
peace of Christ into the life of the world, multiplying this
blessing over and over again. Blessings on you,
beloved of God!

***POSTLUDE**

Announcements

Please Join us for Lunch following the Service

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

Fall Dinner Play Rehearsal—September 11, 4:00 PM

Rummage Sale Set up Dates—

September 15, 6:00 PM and September 16, 10:00 AM

Rummage Sale — September 17, 8:00 AM—2:00 PM

Council Meeting—September 20, 7:00 PM, via Zoom

Praising God's glory the flowers are given by
Lamar Smith and Loretta April in celebration
of their 25th wedding anniversary.

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Joshua Bartsch, Worship Leader
Lori Dick, Liturgist
Kim Whitehead, Guest Organist
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music

All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

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