



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

ORDER OF WORSHIP
The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 18, 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 welcomes those whose hearts are heavy.
God's invitation comes to those whose joy is gone

Many: Why are God's people not restored? Why must
we weep day and night for what we have lost?

One: Take heart for there is a balm in Gilead. God will
bring restoration to those who follow Jesus.

Many: We bring all our pain and unresolved anger
here today. We come seeking healing
and restoration.

One: This is the place to bring all your prayers
and laments. God is eager to offer salvation
and open us up to love.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

(UNISON)

We have come into this space, gracious God, and we invite You to be here with us. It is Your presence that makes this place holy. This is not our church, but Yours. You have charged us to be stewards, not only of this place but of Your creation. Help us to reorder our priorities so that what we possess becomes a tool and not an idol. Help us to bring about Your kingdom by how we live. Help us to love You, creation, others and ourselves more fully. This we ask in Jesus' name and pray as He taught us. 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. Lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

*HYMN "All Things Bright and Beautiful" NO. 30

CALL TO CONFESSION

Gracious God, we know that we need to change our way of being in the world. We need to live into Jesus' vision of Your kingdom. Hear now our prayer this day as we acknowledge our brokenness and ask for Your forgiveness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(UNISON)

O God, we have not managed creation well. We modify Your wishes to suit our ego and desires. We waste precious resources without a thought and hoard resources which are meant for all people. We acknowledge that our concerns are narrow and our compassion is weak. Forgive us, we pray, and lead us into a better way of being.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Trust in God and let go of dishonesty and false riches.
Open your hearts to accept the love and forgiveness of God.
Know that if you are truly repentant God forgives you and
gives you a fresh start.

***GLORIA PATRI TUNE: GREATORIX**

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

Luke 16:1-13

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means

of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes. “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

SERMON “You Gotta Serve Somebody”

***HYMN** “Just As I Am” NO.354

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL TO THE OFFERING

We acknowledge that we have been blessed by God and realize that we have much to share with the world. Today we offer not only a portion of our wealth, but also ourselves to the service of God. We ask for God’s blessing upon this offering.

***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 give, loving God, because of Your generosity to us.
We share with others a portion of what we have because
You have blessed us. We dedicate our offering today to
You and the realization of Your kingdom. Amen**

***HYMN “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” NO. 358**

GOING WITH THE WORD

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Announcements

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 18, 4:00 PM
Council Meeting—September 20, 7:00 PM, via Zoom
Deacon's Meeting—September 26, 7:00 PM, via Zoom

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Rhonda Macleod, Guest Pastor
Jane Herlihy, Liturgist
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music

All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

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