



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

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
October 30, 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: We cry out to God for the help we need.
How will we know we have been heard?

Many: **God stands with us through life's trials
and temptations. God sends visions of
new possibilities.**

One: Here we stand watch for God's appearing.
Together we seek a presence and aspire
after truth.

Many: **Surely God is in this place and will give us
understanding. God is recalling us to the values
we have neglected.**

One: God righteousness is everlasting, and God's law is
truth. Listen to all God would teach us;
hear the Word of God.

Many: **We seek to grow in faith and in love for one
another. We would learn to do good and to
work for justice.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

(UNISON)

All around us, we see trouble and wrongdoing.
Our world is consumed by violence and destruction.
Even in your church, O God, are strife and contention.
The iniquity of this generation hangs heavy upon us.
We cannot worship you apart from the turmoil that lies
so close at hand. Listen to us , God of all people.
Hear our longing for a new day in which your reign of
love is established among us. Amen

***HYMN** “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” **NO. 68**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Our festivals and solemn assemblies are offensive to God
when we come with hardened hearts and with blood on
our hands. God will not listen to the words of our prayers
when our hearts are not attuned to the Spirit.
God’s welcome is for those who are penitent.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(UNISON)

All-knowing God, we confess our participation in the
hatred and evil that is consuming this planet. We gladly
accept for ourselves the power and advantages that
come our way. We seldom consider the cost to others
of our prosperity. We tolerate poverty, hunger, and
homelessness for people we do not know. We think our
small efforts too insignificant to make a difference.
Wash away, O God, the evil that paralyzes us, that we
may become rescuers of the oppressed and seekers after
justice. Create in us a right spirit that prompts us to live
by faith and to dare great things for you. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Grace to you and peace from the God who loves us and equips us to become all we were meant to be. God is even now working in us to make us worthy of our high calling in Jesus Christ. Today salvation has come to this house, and we are all being changed.

COLLECT

Transforming God, Parent of our Savior Jesus Christ and Parent to each of us, we find ourselves up a tree, seeking to observe you from a distance, while you compel us to come close enough to welcome you into our homes, our work, and our play. Come into our hearts to reorder our priorities and save us from ourselves so we may be a blessing to those who need the love you will offer through us. 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

MISSION POSSIBLE OFFERING

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Luke 19:1-10

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter,

“He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.” But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.” Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

SERMON “Our Own Tree to Climb”

***HYMN** “Let Every Christian Pray” NO. 332

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

Jesus Christ came into the world to seek out and to save the lost. Sometimes those who have much are lost in their possessions. The offering becomes the high point of worship when we are centered on the steadfast love of God. The our possessions become instruments of grace, for us and for others, and the lost are found.

***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)**

Seeking God, all that we have is yours. All your children are our brothers and sisters. We are all inheritors of your grace. You have blessed us abundantly. Now bless what we have been moved to share, that our love for one another may increase.
Amen

***HYMN "O Happy Day" NO. 368**

GOING WITH THE WORD

***BENEDICTION**

One: Hurry home, for a guest awaits you there.
Jesus Christ wants to stay at your house today.

Many: **We give thanks to God for this gift of grace.**
May our homes be places of self-sacrificing love.

One: Greet the challenges of this week as opportunities. Let your faith grow as you love for others increases.

Many: **We will pray for one another as we serve.**
We will look to God for the strength we need.

One: God will fulfill your good resolves and works of faith. The name of Jesus Christ will be glorified in you.

Many: **Today salvation has come to this house.**
Today our homes are being blessed by Christ's presence.

Amen

Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

Announcements

- ⇒ **Help is needed for the fall dinner plays** on November 11 and 12. A sign up sheet is in the link.
- ⇒ **Dinner Play Tickets are still available** - get yours now! Contact Sue Jean or leave message at the Church
- ⇒ **November 20th we will be decorating the Church** for Christmas after worship service. Missions will be providing lunch for us. Please mark your calendars and plan on staying to help. *Many hands make light work*

Amazon Smiles Program

Going into our third year of Amazon Smiles program, did you know that as of September 2022 the Church has received \$248.35 in FREE money.

What is Amazon Smiles?

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support the church every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com and when you shop with AmazonSmile, the added benefit is that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. While you can choose from over one million organizations to support, we humbly suggest you select Second Congregational Church of Wilton NH.

How can you participate using a web browser:

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Sign in with the same account you use for Amazon.com
3. Select your charity - Second Congregational Church of Wilton NH.
4. Start shopping! Remember to checkout at smile.amazon.com to generate donations for your chosen charity. Tip: Add a bookmark to make it easier to shop at smile.amazon.com.

On The Calendar

Fall Dinner Play Rehearsal—October 30, 4:00 PM
Budget Meeting—November 3, 7:00 PM via Zoom

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. Jami Boyle Guest Pastor
Violet Blake, Liturgist
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music
All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

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