

Those who  
**humble  
themselves**  
will be  
**exalted.**

Luke 18:14, NIV



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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**October 23, 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:** This is God's house, a holy place.

We are here, where God is among us.

**Many:** **My soul longs for the comfort which comes  
only from God. My heart songs with joy at the  
presence of the living God.**

**One:** Happy are those who are here this day.

Blessed are you whom God embraces in love.

**Many:** **Our voices rise in praise of God and all that  
God has done for us. All of creation worships  
the creator.**

**\*HYMN** "All Creatures of Our God and King" **NO. 23**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION** (UNISON)

**Gracious and loving God, You understand us and know  
our every thought. Here in this place and time we seek  
to be attuned to Your word. May our hearts be open  
and receptive to all that You wish to share with us here  
this day. Grant us the strength to persevere as Your  
witnesses so that others may be drawn to You. 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.**

#### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

God accepts and forgives those who humble confess their shortcomings and failures. Let us call to mind all the ways in which we have fallen short and ask God for forgiveness and the strength to continue to work towards living in a way that promotes the Kingdom of God here on earth.

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)**

**O God, how easily we forget that all the blessing we have come from You. We often imagine that what we have is the product of our efforts and not the result of Your grace and love for us. Because of this, we become self-righteous and judgmental of others. We compare ourselves to those whose sins are made public and consider ourselves better than them. We confess this here today and ask that You open our hearts and minds so as to eliminate judgment and all that alienates us from others. Help us to see that in Your eyes, we all are one. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen**

#### **ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

God forgives those who confess their faults and failures with a humble and contrite heart. Know that you are forgiven by God and blessed by love and grace.

#### **\*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

Joel 2:23-29

O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame. Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

Luke 18:9-14

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

**SERMON** “Words of Hope—Words of Caution”

**\*HYMN** “Just As I Am” NO. 354

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**CALL TO THE OFFERING**

God has richly blessed us and is with us always. We now take a moment to consider these blessings and give what we can so this church may continue to be a beacon of light in this community.

**\*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)

You have dealt wondrously with us, gracious God, we have gathered here today to praise and thank You for all that You have done for us. We ask You to bless and multiply our offering this day so that this church may continue to be a place where all can come and find peace in You. Amen.

**\*HYMN** “Called as Partners in Christs Service” NO.581

**GOING WITH THE WORD**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**



Praising God's glory the flowers are given  
by Sue Warren in loving memory  
of her Dad, Carl A. Warren



## Announcements

### Help needed

Help is needed for the fall dinner plays on November 11 and 12. A sign up sheet is in the link.

### 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](https://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](https://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](https://smile.amazon.com) to generate donations for your chosen charity. Tip: Add a bookmark to make it easier to shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).

## On The Calendar

Fall Dinner Play Rehearsal—October 23, 4:00 PM  
Deacon's Meeting—October 24, 7:00 PM via Zoom

**PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Rev. Dr. Rhonda Macleod, Guest Pastor  
Dana Dahl, Liturgist  
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music  
All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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