



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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP
Transfiguration Sunday
February 19, 2023**

**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 people, God is calling us. The God of time and space calls us to meet here knowing that the Spirit is present.

Many: **The world thinks we are strange to gather this way each week. We rejoice in this difference as we gather to worship God.**

One: God tells us that we are blessed. God calls us to share that blessing and be generous and loving

Many: **We seek to follow the ways of Jesus.
We seek to help others and to bring about the kingdom of God.**

***HYMN** **“The Church’s One Foundation”** **NO. 544**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)

God, we are here to worship You and to listen to Your word. You rule over all of creation. Help us to learn and heed Your will for us, not as a limiting and oppressive command, but as the freeing, fulfilling pathway to life. 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, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: The wisdom of the world is foolish to God. Sadly, we have fallen into the ways of the world as we speak of our rights and strive to get ahead, not caring who we hurt along the way. Let us now take a moment and confess our failing to God and ask for forgiveness.

Moment of Silence

All: Gracious God, we do not fully understand Your ways. We forget that You call us to live in ways that are different from the accepted norms of the world. We confess that we have not always lived the teaching that You have provided for us. We come before You now, and humbly ask for Your forgiveness for all those times we have fallen short and failed to follow the teachings of Jesus.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The grace and forgiveness of God is available to all those who repent and put their trust in God. Each of us is a temple of the Holy Spirit which creates a holy place within us. We belong to Christ. Know that if you are truly repentant, you are forgiven.

***GLORIA PATRI TUNE: GREATOREX**

**Glory to the Creator and to the Christ
and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, in now and ever shall be.
World without end. Amen. Amen**

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalm 119: 1-16

Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord. Happy are those who keep his decrees, who seek him with their whole heart, who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways. You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently. O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes! Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments. I will praise you with an upright heart when I learn your righteous ordinances. I will observe your statutes; do not utterly forsake me. How can young people keep their way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; do not let me stray from your commandments. I treasure your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against you. Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes. With my lips I declare all the ordinances of your mouth. I delight in the way of your decrees as much as in all riches. I will meditate on your precepts, and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

Matthew 5:38-48

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you. “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

SERMON “Love Your Neighbor”

***HYMN** “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” NO. 587

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL TO THE OFFERING

God delights in our joyous response to God’s outpouring of love. Our offering will help to build on the foundation laid by Jesus as it helps this church to continue to be a place where all can come and know God.

***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)

These gifts are a way that we show how we delight in
Your ways and try to follow what Jesus taught. Bless and
multiply our gifts so that this church may continue to be
a place where all are welcome. Amen

***HYMN** "Be Not Afraid" NO. 430

GOING WITH THE WORD

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

On The Calendar

Council Meeting, February 20, 7:00 PM Via Zoom
Ash Wednesday Service, February 22, 7:00 PM

Praising God's glory the flowers
are given by Tom and Jane Herlihy
in loving memory of their son, Christopher.



PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Rhonda MacLeod, Guest Pastor
Violet Blake, Liturgist
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music

All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

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