



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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP  
Palm Sunday  
April 2, 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:** This is a day of joyous welcome.  
We welcome Christ with waving branches and  
shouts of hosanna.

**Many:** **Our teacher and master comes humble,  
riding on a donkey. Blessed is the One who  
comes in God's name.**

**One:** There are still those who oppose the way of love.  
Jesus rides into the tumult of our times and is  
with us.

**Many:** **We know that love prevails in spite of those  
who oppose it. We give thanks, aware that God's  
love endures all and lasts forever.**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)**

Loving God, present in both sunshine and shadow, we follow the drama of salvation with wonder. As we walk with Jesus during this holy week, each day drawing closer to his inevitable suffering and death, we are thankful for every moment of sunshine that fell on his path. We thank you for the common folk and the little children, who sensed a glory that the proud and learned could not see. We thank you for each waving palm frond and every shout of Hosanna. Like latecomers, at the rear of the crowd, we add our praise and pledge our love. And so we pray the words that Jesus 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.

**\*HYMN "All Glory Laud and Honor" NO. 265**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

True repentance is not for the fainthearted. Soul-deep repentance is one of the sanest, yet toughest, experiences we can engage in. Let us take a moment of silence to reflect on all those things for which we need to be forgiven

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

Loving God, may we have the grace of sincere repentance, and find our true selves gathered up in your healing and freedom. Then having been forgiven, enable us to live as a forgiving people, breaking the vicious circle of this world's blame and counter blame. Let us be a redemptive community, sharing the love with which you have loved us.

## **ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

God does not ask us to wallow in our mistakes, or deny ourselves the grace that abounds in human weakness. Know that you are forgiven and can begin anew.

## **\*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**

**Matthew 21:1-11**

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, “Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them;<sup>7</sup> they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

SERMON

\*HYMN

“The King of Glory”  
*Process Into Sanctuary*

NO. 159

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL TO THE 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

May these gifts we give this day be life changing good news, for those who gave them and all who will be touched by God because of them. May they grow and multiply, so that this church may also grow and continue to be a light in the darkness, a place of safety and a space to come and know God’s love.  
This we ask in Jesus’ name. Amen

## HOLY COMMUNION

\*HYMN                    “I am the Bread of Life”                    NO. 703

**CALL TO THE TABLE**

**BREAKING AND POURING**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Bountiful God, at this table you graciously feed us with the bread of life and the cup of eternal salvation. May we who have reached out our hands to receive this sacrament be strengthened in your service; we who have sung your praises tell of your glory and truth in our lives. May we who have seen the greatness of your love, share that love with others and work to bring about Your kingdom. Amen

\*HYMN                    “Ride On, Ride On, in Majesty”                    NO. 268

**GOING WITH THE WORD**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

*On The Calendar/Announcements*

Maundy Thursday Service, April 6, 7:00 PM

Easter Sunrise Service, April 9, 6:15 AM—  
Grand Hill-Mt. Vernon

Easter Service, April 9, 10:00 AM

Dinner Plays, April 14–15

Help is still needed—contact Loretta Smith

Praising God's glory the flowers are given by  
Kevin & Sue Jean in loving memory of Kevin's Dad, Roland Jean.



**PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Rev. Dr. Rev. Rhonda MacLeod, Guest Pastor  
, Liturgist  
Karen Nelson, Guest Musician  
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music  
All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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