

“Whoever **drinks** the **water** I give him
will **never thirst.**”



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

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Third Sunday of Lent
March 12, 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: God of sea and sky, you keep the earth flourishing.

All: **We come before you weary from traveling
through barren lands.**

One: Holy One, you give water that sustains
body and spirit.

All: **You hydrate us when we need, how we need.**

One: Miracle Worker, you caused a rock to crack
and bring forth water.

All: **Crack our hearts open and let your love flow
from them like a spring.**

*HYMN “Come Away from Rush and Hurry” NO. 655

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

(Unison)

Holy One, we are thankful for who you are and all that
you are. Your presence is desired here. We take joy in
knowing that you are as close to us as our next breath.
We thirst for you. May we be filled to overflowing with
your love. Amen

CALL TO CONFESSION

God is merciful as a gentle healing balm when we turn to Him with our secret thoughts, our sad discouragements, and our confessions. Let us now together offer our prayer of confession.

PRAYER TO CONFESSION

(Unison)

Enduring Presence, we confess that sometimes we question if you are among us or not. Sometimes we quarrel with you when we are tested. These are the moments when our outlook needs transformation. You are gracious in looking beyond our faults to see our needs and meet them. Thank you for your immeasurable grace. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

New mercies are granted daily and every day we have an opportunity to be changed forever and for good. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI TUNE: GREATOR EX**

Glory to the Creator and to the Christ
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

Exodus 17:1-7

The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?" But the people were thirsty for water there, and they

grumbled against Moses. They said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?” Then Moses cried out to the Lord, “What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me.” The Lord answered Moses, “Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.” So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the Lord saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

John 4:5-29, 39-42

So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.” “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?” Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.” He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.” “I have no husband,” she replied. Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have

is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”
“Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.” “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.” The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.” Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?” Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?”

Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. And because of his words many more became believers. They said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”

SERMON “Jesus, Our Well Spring”
***HYMN** “As Water to the Thirsty” NO. 432

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Let us give freely to our God who is so generous to us.
May the resources we bring be more than enough to sustain
the life of 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**

Fount of Blessing, receive our gifts in the joy that we give
them. Be it time, tithe or talent, it all comes from you.
Thank you for blessing us to be a blessing to you and each
other. Amen.

***HYMN “Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life” NO. 591**

GOING WITH THE WORD

***BENEDICTION**

As you leave this sacred space, remember that the God who
caused water to flow from a rock is the same God who
walks with you. Go forth with the assurance that in the
midst of a chaotic world something good can happen and
something good will happen. Amen

***POSTLUDE**

*(UCC Worship Ways resources used with permission, Give Us Water:
Service Prayers for the Third Sunday of Lent by T. Nock.)*

Refocus for Lent

Give up complaining - focus on gratitude
Give up pettiness - become mature
Give up harsh judgements - think kind thoughts
Give up jealousy - pray for trust
Give up worry - trust God to provide
Give up gossiping - control your tongue
Give up discouragement - be full of hope
Give up sin - turn to virtue
Give up hatred - return good for evil
Give up giving up - persevere
Give up anger - be more patient

author unknown

On The Calendar/Announcements

Join us to watch and Episode of the Chosen,
today following Worship

Dinner Play Rehearsal, March 12, 5:00 PM

Project Linus, March 14, 9:30 –11:30 AM

Jewelry and Book Sale, March 18, 10:00 AM –2:00 PM
Set up will be in the morning at 8:00 AM. If you can help,
please contact Loretta and let her know.



PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. Anne Rodman, Guest Pastor
Loretta Smith, Liturgist
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music

All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

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