



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

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Fifth Sunday of Lent
March 26, 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: Breath of life, you animate us.

All: **We come before you seeking revival from within.**

One: Holy One, when you speak, great things happen.

All: **Empower us to make great things happen.**

One: Matchless One, you bring good things to life.

All: **We desire to bring good things to life too.**

*HYMN

“Restore in Us O God”

NO. 381

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

(UNISON)

Life Giver, come and revive us again. Indwell us with your Spirit and let our souls awake to joy. We come boldly that you might breathe on us. May what we experience with you today change us forever and for the better. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(Ezek. 37: 11)

When we are honest with ourselves, we must admit that there are times when “our bones are dry, our thread of life is snapped, and our web is severed from the loom.” Let us confess together our separation from our truest selves, from our sisters and brothers, and from the Source of Life.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

(UNISON)

Mender of Hearts, we confess that sometimes in our brokenness, we cause brokenness in others. Sometimes in our woundedness, we wound others. In these despairing moments, we need healing and restoration. We give thanks that we are never beyond your reach or grace. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God’s mercy makes wholeness possible and our wholeness is rooted in becoming who we are meant to be - living sanctuaries. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI TUNE: GREATOREX**

**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

MISSION POSSIBLE OFFERING

READING FROM SCRIPTURE John 11:1-45

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light." After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

“Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.” After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.” When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there. When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. “Where have you laid him?” he asked.

“Come and see, Lord,” they replied. Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?” Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. “Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.” Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me.

I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.” Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

SERMON "Do You Believe This?"

***HYMN** "What Wondrous Love This Is" NO. 257

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

God is the source of our supply. Let us give from what we
have been supplied. May this supply meet every demand.

***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)

Divine Sustainer, receive this offering that we gladly give.
May it be used to revive and restore those in need.
Amen.

***HYMN** "Rise up O Saints of God" NO. 590

GOING WITH THE WORD

*BENEDICTION

As we go our separate ways, remember that God's Spirit has been placed within you. Go forth centered in God and let God be centered in you. Amen.

*POSTLUDE

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

Praising God's glory the flowers are given by
Tedo Rocca & Violet Blake in loving memory of her son, Dana.

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

Deacon's Meeting, March 27, 7:00 PM via Zoom
Palm Sunday, April 2
Maundy Thursday Service, April 6, 7:00 PM
Easter Sunrise Service, April 9, 6:15 PM—Grand Hill-Mt. Vernon
Easter Service, April 9, 10:00 AM

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. Anne Rodman, Guest Pastor
Ingrid Howard, Liturgist
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music

All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

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