

The
sheep
follow
him
because
they
know
his
voice.

John 10:4, NRSV



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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP
Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 30, 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: How Awesome to gather before God.
We are here to celebrate with wide eyed wonder.

Many: **The God of the universe is here with us.**
Praise to God for this season of Easter.

One: Praise God for all the signs of new life.
Praise God for all we can do together.

Many: **Praise to God for the life and ministry of Jesus.**
**Praise God for all those who share that
ministry today.**

One: Christ came to offer us abundant life.
We are here today to claim that gift.

Many: **We gather in the name of Jesus Christ,**
We want to follow in the steps of Jesus.

***HYMN**

“Alleluia Jesus is Risen”

NO. 306

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND LORDS PRAYER (Unison)

God, beyond our knowing, yet revealed so personally in Jesus Christ, help us to embrace the abundance You offer us. May we follow the example of Jesus, showing love and compassion to all those we meet. Let us know and feel Your enveloping care for all of us. Help us to offer Christ's healing to a world shattered by selfishness and greed. This we pray in Jesus name 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: Scripture often compares us to sheep that have gone astray. Just as sheep may not see beyond the next tuft of grass, we are often do not see beyond our own selfish desires. Yet, Christ continually calls to us to come to Him for comfort and forgiveness. Let us now take a moment to reflect on those times we have gone astray so that we may come before Christ with humble and contrite hearts.

Moment of Silence

All: Gracious God, we often do not want to admit that our possessions possess us. We remain captive to the things we have and the things that we want. We are reluctant to share with others. We place limits on our willingness to follow Jesus. God forgive us for the times that our attitudes and pride have hurt others and hurt our planet. Help us to be faithful followers of Jesus and good stewards of the earth which You have given us. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

***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

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; They would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

John 10:1-10

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of

speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

SERMON “Following The Way”

***HYMN** “Savior, Like a Shepherd lead us” NO. 440

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**

Thank You God for the abundant life that we enjoy. Thank You for the relationships You offer and the opportunities for sharing that You provide. May our gifts this day help this church to meet the needs of the community that it serves. Extend our outreach beyond our vision, that we may live in awe and wonder of all that You have done and continue to don in our lives, our community and in the world.

***HYMN** “Because He Lives” NO. 447

GOING WITH THE WORD

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

On The Calendar/Announcements

Rummage Sale, May 20,
Help is needed—Sign up Sheet in Link

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

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

All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Email for Church Administration
Del Mogavero, 2ccwilton@gmail.com
Church Phone Number: 603-654-9045
Website: 2ccwilton.org

The Second Congregational Church in Wilton,
United Church of Christ
25 Gregg Street
P. O. Box 246
Wilton, NH 03086

