



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

ORDER OF WORSHIP  
Easter Sunday  
April 9, 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: Give thanks to our Good God whose unfailing  
love lasts forever!

All: **Give thanks to our Risen God whose unfailing  
love lives forever!**

One: All who encounter the Risen One whether gently  
roused by the sunrise or surprised by the sudden  
burst of joy will join the Resurrection Procession  
one by one, coming into step, some of us singing,  
some of us silently soaking it in, and many of us  
feeling the movement as in a dance.

All: **Alleluia! Christ lives and finds us with  
unfailing love!**

\*HYMN                    “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”                    NO. 288

PRAYER OF INVOCATION                    (Unison)

Resurrected God, you are the God of new beginnings,  
of new dawns and new mercies. When we move toward  
the tomb, remind us that you come to us with life.  
When we despair at the world unfolding around us,  
assure us of your redemptive power. When we long for

**your voice, speak a word of hope, encouragement, and peace. May we reflect your image as resurrection people in covenant with you. Amen.**

#### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

God's love is steadfast, and God's faithfulness endures from age to age. Our love falters, and our faithfulness waxes and wanes from day to day. Let us confess our sin and our need for God.

#### **PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE (Unison)**

**Amazing God, we know there is nothing you cannot overcome. We confess to our profound need of your love, strength, and mercy. Too often, we come toward the tomb resigned to the status quo. We anticipate the worst even when you are the provider of every good and perfect thing. We allow despair over the condition of our world to overwhelm us when you call us to follow you. Fortify us to live abundantly with you on earth. Transform us and breathe new life into us.**

#### **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE**

The One who transformed death can and will certainly transform our lives. Jesus welcomes us on the journey to new life. No matter how many times our steps stray, we hide from hard things, or we betray the good news, God's grace meets us with an unfailing love to guide us on the path of life abundant and everlasting. Receive the resurrection power of the One who was and is and is to come.

#### **\*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

#### READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalm 118:1-2,14-24

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.

Let Israel say:

“His love endures forever.”

The Lord is my strength and my defense  
he has become my salvation.

Shouts of joy and victory

resound in the tents of the righteous:

The Lord’s right hand is lifted high;

the Lord’s right hand has done mighty things!”

I will not die but live,

and will proclaim what the Lord has done.

The Lord has chastened me severely,

but he has not given me over to death.

Open for me the gates of the righteous;

I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord

through which the righteous may enter.

I will give you thanks, for you answered me;

you have become my salvation.

The stone the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

the Lord has done this,

and it is marvelous in our eyes.

The Lord has done it this very day;

let us rejoice today and be glad.

**Matthew 28:1-10**

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.” So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. 1Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

**SERMON**                      “Waiting at the Tomb”

**\*HYMN**                      “Thine is the Glory”                      NO. 310

#### **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**

“So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.” (*Colossians 3:1-2*)

In the giving of our gifts, we seek the kingdom, we trust in the Provider, and we follow in the way of Jesus.

**\*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**

Generous and Giving God, receive this portion of the gifts you have given to us. May our time, treasure and talent be magnified and multiplied for your glory. Amen.

**\*HYMN**                                      “Christ is Alive!”                                      NO. 312

**GOING WITH THE WORD**

**\*BENEDICTION**

Like the disciples on the day of Resurrection may we go toward the tomb, a place seemingly devoid of life, expectant to find life in all its glory and spread the good news that life prevails, that life redeems and that love never fails. Go in peace with resurrection purpose to love God, God’s children and God’s creation. Amen.

**\*POSTLUDE**

*(UCC Worship Ways resources used with permission, Toward the Tomb: Service Prayers for Resurrection Sunday, Rev. Dr. C. Lindsay, Minister of Worship and Theology, UCC.)*

*On The Calendar/Announcements*

Project Linus, April 11, 10:00–11:30 AM

Dinner Plays, April 14–15  
Help is still needed—contact Loretta Smith  
Tickets still available—please talk with Sue

Church Council Meeting, April 18, 7:00 PM Via Zoom

**PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Rev. Anne Rodman, Guest Pastor  
Lori Dick, Liturgist  
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music

All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Email for Church Administration  
Del Mogavero, [2ccwilton@gmail.com](mailto:2ccwilton@gmail.com)  
Church Phone Number: 603-654-9045  
Website: [2ccwilton.org](http://2ccwilton.org)

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

