



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

CALL TO CONFESSION

What God asks of us is to remember the promise that God will be with us and work in us. Come before God now, ready to be a part of all that is good. Let go of what keeps you from God's powerful call.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(UNISON)

God of all worlds and all time, we are thankful for this season of resurrection. May our worship be as an Easter tide. Wash over us and seep into us to refresh and to cleanse. Dissolve the prejudices that cling to us like barnacles, the jealousies that lodge in crevices of memory. Move toward us with power and might when we are rock-rigid in our views and when we are unforgiving as granite. Let us hear the thunderous sound of good news as it breaks upon our hardness of heart. And bid us, God, to dare to journey upon the sea of the Spirit. May the waves of an Easter tide buoy us up and beckon us to the adventure of resurrection living. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

God is merciful and gracious, offering forgiveness freely and willingly. All that we regret shrinks in importance - all that we hope blossoms and grows.

*GLORIA PATRI

Tune: GREATORIX

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
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

JOHN 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name

SERMON

"Peace Within Us"

*HYMN

"Come and Find the Quiet Center"

NO. 477

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

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Since our cups run over with the gifts of grace, let us
respond with our love, ourselves and our tithes and
offerings.

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**

Gracious God, we ask your blessing on tithes and offerings,
expressions of our joy and care. Renew in us a sense of our
abundance in all times and a never-failing compassion for
all who need hope, for we pray in the Spirit who is the
source of hope and joy, of our gifts and our open hands.
Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

***HYMN** “Put Peace Into Each Other’s Hands” NO. 389

***BENEDICTION**

May the love of the Father, the tenderness of the Son, and the presence of the Spirit, gladden your hearts and bring peace to your souls, this day and all days. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

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On The Calendar/Announcements

- Council Meeting, April 18, 7:00 PM Via Zoom
- Church Missions, April 18, 9:30 AM
- Please return your Lenten Banks

**Praising God's glory the flowers are presented
by Kevin & Sue Jean in loving memory
of Sue's brother, John Jowders**



Guest Pastor, Anne Rodman
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music
Stephanie Ouellette, Liturgist
Karen Nelson, Guest Musician
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

