



The Road to
Emmaus

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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP
Third Sunday of Easter
April 23, 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 has called us together for this time of worship. God is here to listen to us.

Many: **We believe that God is here and is listening.
We know that God knows us better than we
know ourselves.**

One: Let us open our hearts, minds, and spirits to the One who gives us life. Let us set our faith and hope in God.

Many: **In one another's presence we renew our vow to follow Jesus. Together we offer prayers of thanksgiving and praise.**

One: God's promises to us are ancient and yet ever new. God is with us here and on all the roads we travel.

Many: **Together we lift our voices in songs of praise.
Together we recognize that we are precious in
God's sight.**

***HYMN** "Now The Green Blade Rises" NO. 311

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

(UNISON)

Wonderous God, You are present with us even when we do not know it. You value us even when we strive to find value in ourselves. You plant the seed of Your word within us even when we have not properly prepared our hearts. We ask that You open our eyes to Your presence so that we may recognize You as we go about our lives. May we sense Your presence with us as we walk down the road of life. May we see You in one another and in the beauty of life all around us. This we ask In Jesus' name and pray 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: We are called to come before God with humble and contrite hearts. We are called to reflect on and ask forgiveness for all those times our thoughts, words and actions have fallen short and caused hurt and pain in others and in ourselves. So now we come before You O God and ask that for Your forgiveness.

Moment of Silence

All: O God, we confess that we rush through our days without recognizing Your presence with us. We follow our busy diversions without reference to Your will for us. We strive for financial success and personal recognition, while You call us to truth and genuine love for all. Purify us, we pray, and redirect our priorities. May we be born anew through Your living and enduring word. Amen.

WORD'S 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

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then

beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

SERMON "Recognizing Jesus"

***HYMN** "O Master Let Me Walk With Thee" NO. 589

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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 privilege of joining with Christ in the proclamation of Your love for all people. May the ministries of this church that this offering supports serve to unite us in love. Bless and multiply these gifts so that this church may continue to be a beacon of light in this community. Help us to continue to make Your love known to all people. This we pray in Christ's name. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

***HYMN** "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" NO. 344

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

On The Calendar/Announcements

- Deacons Meeting, April 24, 7:00 PM Via Zoom
- Project Linus, April 25, 10:00 AM
- Making Fidget Blankets, April 27, 8:00 AM

Praising God's glory the flowers are presented by
Peter & Stephanie Ouellette
in loving memory of Stephanie's Mom,
Nancy Straw.



PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Guest Pastor, Rev. Dr. Rhonda MacLeod
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music
Guest Musician, Karen Nelson

Dana Dahl, Liturgist
All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

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