



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

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 21, 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 holds out to us the promise of new life; Life as unpredictable, as unrehearsed, as explosive as life at the very beginning. God calls us to respond to this gift with creativity, joy and courage. In worship, we can begin to accept this gift of new life.

All: **Praise God, who has raised Jesus Christ to reveal new life. Praise God, who sends the Spirit to empower the church. Let everything that breathes sing praise. Let us worship and give thanks to God.**

***HYMN** “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling ” NO. 358

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Spirit of Life, in whom we live and move and have our being, we worship you. We thank you for your presence among us and in your whole creation. Enable us to recognize your workings in the commonplace and the everyday. Fill us with your power, that by truthful words, just actions, and shared life we may witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

What God asks of us is to remember the promise that God is with us and works 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)

Gracious God, you encourage us with your love, bringing new life out of death. We confess that we need your life-giving power in our lives and our relationships. We have hurt others and been hurt by them. We are often angry or afraid. We are not sure when to assert our needs and when to care for other's needs. We continue to live in ways that do not lead to peace and justice. Forgive us, O God. Pour your Spirit of wisdom and healing upon us, that by our lives and our loving, we may glorify you, through Jesus Christ the Risen One. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Through the gift of Jesus Christ and in the name of the One who died and rose again, all is forgiven, and we can recommit ourselves to being God's messengers in this world.

***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

MISSION POSSIBLE COLLECTION

ANTHEM

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

John 17:1-11

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. “I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

Acts 1:6-14

Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky

as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

SERMON "Pray It Forward"

***HYMN** "They'll Know We Are Christians" NO. 595

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

Our tithes and offerings are a sign of our intention to live surrounded by God's mercy, inspired by God's Spirit, open to the joy of His presence, hospitable and generous toward one another and the world. Let us now give with cheerful hearts.

***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 these 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.

PRESENTATION

LORI DICK

***HYMN**

"Pass It On"

NO. 557

GOING WITH THE WORD

***BENEDICTION**

May God bless you and keep you, and may God bless you and give you away to others. May God's face shine on you, and your face reflect an irresistible Good News. May God lift up everything that is fallen in you, and give you more peace and joy than you alone can hold. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

On The Calendar/Announcements

Deacons Meeting, May 22, 7:00 PM Via Zoom

Project Linus, May 23, 10:00–11:30 AM

All Church Picnic, June 4, Following Worship

UCC Strengthen The Church offering will be taken
next Sunday, May 28.

Some resources reprinted by permission of the publisher from
Touch Holiness, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. Copy-
right 1990 by The Pilgrim Press.)

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

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

