



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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP  
Fourth Sunday After Pentecost  
June 25, 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.***

**OUR LIFE TOGETHER**  
Words of Welcome and Announcements

**PRELUDE**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** *responsively*

L: Jesus said the kingdom of God is like:

P: **A mustard seed someone took and sowed  
in their field.**

L: The kingdom of God is like:

P: **Yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three  
measures of flour.**

L: Jesus said the kingdom of God is like:

P: **Treasure hidden in a field.**

L: The kingdom of God is like:

P: **A pearl of great value.**

L: What did Jesus mean?

P: **Come, Holy Spirit, teach us as we worship you.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN**      “Holy, Holy, Holy!”      No. 136

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**      *unison*

Gracious God, you make yourself known to us in many ways. Help us to watch for you in the ordinary circumstances of our everyday lives. Grant us eyes to see you, ears to listen for you, the joy of finding you, and the faith to follow you. Amen.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**      *unison*

Holy God, in humility and repentance we bring our failures in caring, helping, and loving; we bring the pain we have caused others; we bring the injustices in society of which we are a part, to the transforming power of your grace. Help us to accept the healing you offer and turn again to you, that we may walk with you in the promise of peace. Restore unto us the joy of your salvation made known to us in Christ our Lord. Amen.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS**

**PROMISE OF THE PEOPLE**      *unison*

We, the people of Second Congregational Church, welcome you with joy and affection into the fellowship of this church. And we do promise for our part to walk with you in the ways of Christ, and to live with you in brotherly and sisterly love, sharing with you your burdens, praying for you in your need, and working with you to serve the needs of our community and the world. To this end we pledge our loyalty and our love.

**MISSION POSSIBLE COLLECTION**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**SILENT PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**HYMN** "You Are My All in All" No. 427

**CALL TO 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** *unison*

Thank you, O God, for loving us and laboring with us  
as we seek you and as we help others in their seeking.  
Bless these offerings we return to you, that we may  
help others to feel the embrace of your wide welcome.  
Guide us to use these gifts to show your love in all that  
we do. Amen.

**ANTHEM**

**THE WORD OF GOD**

**The Gospel Reading** **Matthew 13:31-33, 44-46**

Jesus put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened...."

Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.”

**SERMON** “The Joy of Finding You”

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**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.

**\*SENDING HYMN** “Take My Life and Let It Be” No. 466

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**



## *On The Calendar/Announcements*

Project Linus, June 27, 9:30–11:30 AM

Del, our Administrative Assistant will be on vacation beginning Friday, June 30th and returning Monday, July 10th.

### **PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Rev. Dr. Gary Klingsporn, Pastor  
Kermit Williams, Liturgist  
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music  
All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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