

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

### ORDER OF WORSHIP Fifth Sunday after Pentecost July 2, 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 Micah 6:6-8 responsively

- L: With what shall we come before the Lord and bow ourselves before God on high?
- P: God has shown us what is good.
- L: What does the Holy One require of us?
- P: God calls us to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.

All: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

\*GATHERING HYMN "America the Beautiful" No. 727

PRAYER OF THE DAY

unison

Gracious God, you have blessed our nation with freedom, beauty, and abundance. Save us from pride, arrogance, discord, and division. Teach us to use our freedom to love and to serve others. Guide us, O God, in what it means to do justice, to love kindness, and walk humbly with you, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

unison

Holy God, we confess to you and to one another that we hurt others. We turn our backs on human need. We neglect matters of kindness and justice. Yet even as we speak these words, we know your love for us. Forgive our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, through Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE** 

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**PASTORAL PRAYER** 

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

**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

Gracious God, bless our offering that it may reach and touch those who hunger, who hurt, who seek new hope. With these gifts we offer ourselves, dedicating our lives to the work of love and peace. Amen.

#### **ANTHEM**

#### THE WORD OF GOD

#### The Scripture Reading

Galatians 5:1, 13-14

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery... For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become servants of one another. For the law is summed up in the commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

**SERMON** "Called to Freedom"

#### **HOLY COMMUNION**

\*HYMN "Let Us Break Bread Together" No. 699

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

**BLESSING OF THE BREAD AND CUP** 

SHARING THE MEAL

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER

unison

We give you thanks, O God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of your Holy Spirit; through Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

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 "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" No. 731
- \*BENEDICTION
- \*POSTLUDE

## On The Calendar/Announcements

Cribbage and Other Card Games, July 7, 7:00 PM

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

Praising God's glory the flowers are presented by
Peter & Stephanie Ouellette
In loving memory of Stephanie's Dad,
Robert Straw



#### PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

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

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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