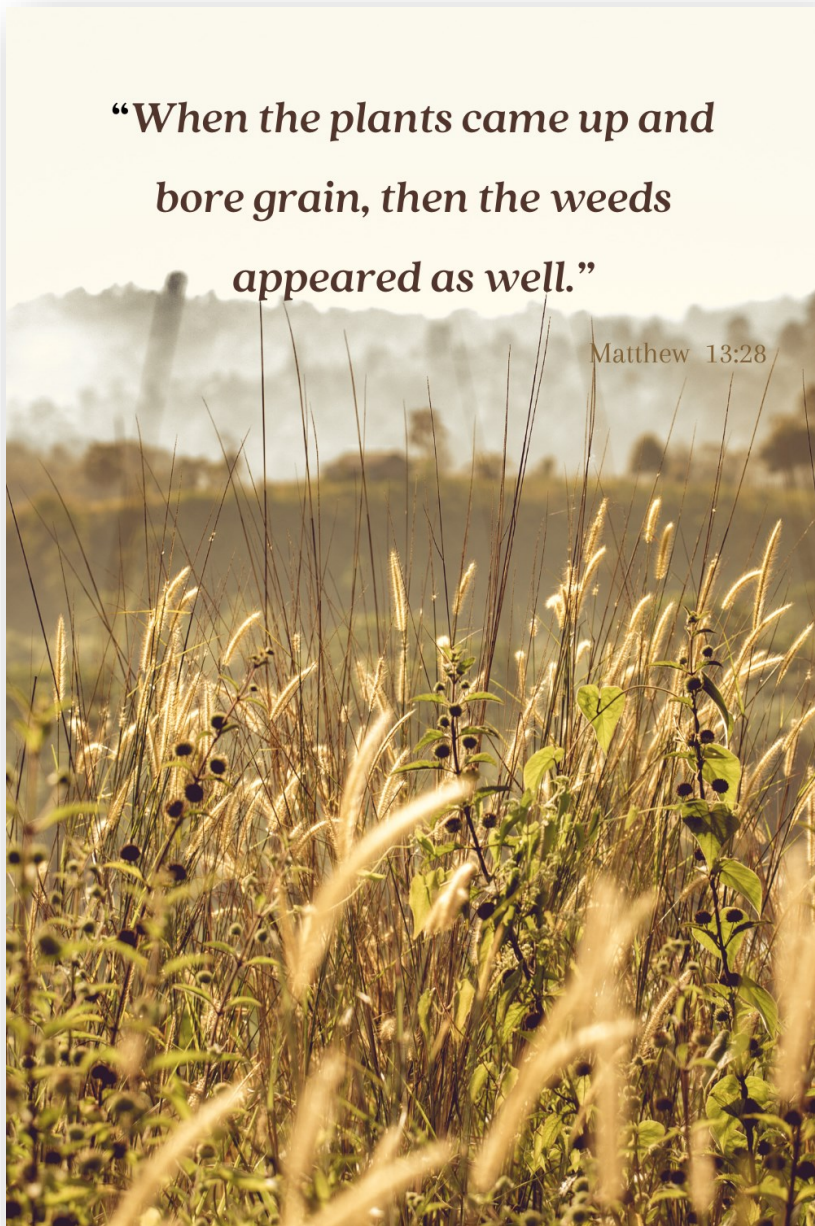


***“When the plants came up and
bore grain, then the weeds
appeared as well.”***

Matthew 13:28



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

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 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.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER
Words of Welcome and Announcements

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *responsively* Psalm 86

L: Teach us your way, O God, that we may walk in
 your truth.

P: **Give us pure and undivided hearts to honor
 your name.**

L: For you, O God, are good and forgiving,

P: **abounding in steadfast love to all who call
 on you.**

L: Give ear to our prayers, O God,

P: **for you are merciful and gracious.**

L: Come, let us worship God.

All: **Let us come into God's presence with joy
 and thanksgiving.**

***GATHERING HYMN**

 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

 No. 71

PRAYER OF THE DAY

unison

Faithful God, you scatter the seeds of your love into our lives and world. You nurture and care for us with mercy and compassion. But then the weeds come. Root us in you alone, that we may bear the fruit of love in all that we say and do. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

unison

Forgive us, O God, when we forget your presence in our busy days; when we turn away from your love, and fail to live as your people. Forgive us for our insensitivity to the needs of others, and for whatever has wounded or brought injury. Help us when we struggle to forgive others and let go of the past. Through your healing touch, free us to be the people you have created us to be. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

HYMN "Will You Come and Follow Me" No. 350

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

Holy God, receive this offering as a sign of our intention to live inspired by your Spirit, open to the joy of your presence, and generous toward your world. Use these gifts, and us, to bring healing, hope, and joy to others. Amen.

ANTHEM

THE WORD OF GOD

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:24-30

Jesus put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the servants of the household-er came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

SERMON

“Living with the Weeds”

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**

"We Are Called to Be God's People"

No. 580

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Praising God's Glory, the flowers are presented
by Warren/Jowders Family
in loving memory of Frieda E. (Jowders) Warren



On The Calendar/Announcements

Lunch with the Pastor, August 10th at noon, sponsored by Missions. Sign up in the link or email ouellette99@gmail.com for a reservation. All are welcome.

Project Linus, July 25th, 10 a.m. in the church hall

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

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

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