

OTHER SEEDS

fell on good soil
and brought forth grain...

Matthew 13:8



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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 16, 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* Psalms 92:1-4; 95:2

L: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

P: **to sing praises to your name, O Most High;**

L: to declare your steadfast love in the morning,

P: **and your faithfulness by night.**

L: For you, O God, have made us glad by your work;

P: **at the works of your hands we sing for joy.**

L: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving.

All: **Let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of
praise!**

***GATHERING HYMN**

"I Sing the Almighty Power of God" No. 31

PRAYER OF THE DAY

unison

Creator God, lavish love and abundant beauty are all around us. You call us to ministries of grace. Like the Sower who sows the seed, help us to “throw grace around” like there is no tomorrow, sharing it with others, so that they may know your love and the world may be a better place. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

unison

Eternal God, whose Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path, we recognize that we have failed to respond fully to your gracious presence in our lives. Through Christ you have offered us new life, fulfillment, and the freedom to serve you. But we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. God of mercy, forgive our sin and strengthen us anew for life as you intend it; through Christ our Savior. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

HYMN

(tune: St. Peter)

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

No. 603

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

All that we have belongs to you, O God. You provide for our every need. We now return to you a portion of what you have given us. Receive our gifts, and use them for your glory, for the blessing of people's lives, for the well-being of our community, and for your creation everywhere. Amen.

ANTHEM

THE WORD OF GOD

The Hebrew Scriptures

Isaiah 55:10-12

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands....

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:1-9

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

SERMON "Lavish Love"

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**

"Called as Partners in Christ's Service" No. 581

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Praising God's Glory, the flowers are presented
by George & Dana Dahl in honor of medical science



On The Calendar/Announcements

Rummage Sale, Saturday July 22, 9:00 AM–2:00 PM
Help is needed, Sign up sheets in link

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

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

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