

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

# ORDER OF WORSHIP Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 3, 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 Micah 6:6-8

- 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

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" No. 61

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

unison

Gracious God, you welcome all people into relationship with you. When race, ethnicity, gender, religion, or politics divide us, by your Spirit remind us that in Christ there is no male or female, black or white, gay or straight, rich or poor, no weak or powerful, broken or whole. Help us to see your love for all people, so that we may accept others as Christ has accepted us. Amen.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

unison

Holy God, we confess that often we are not sure how to live according to your truth. We hurt others. We turn our backs on human need. We neglect matters of kindness, mercy, 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, that we may live and serve you in newness of life, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER

**PRAYER RESPONSE** 

**HYMN** "Dear Christ, Uplifted from the Earth" No. 601

(tune: St. Peter)

**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, whose heart abounds with gifts, receive this offering as the sign of our intention to live surrounded by your love, inspired by your Spirit, open to the joy of your presence, and generous toward the needs of people all around us. Amen.

## **ANTHEM**

#### THE WORD OF GOD

## The Gospel Reading

Matthew 9:10-13

As Jesus sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when Jesus heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

# The Epistle Reading

Galatians 3:26-29

In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

**SERMON** "God's Inclusive Love"

**HOLY COMMUNION** 

\*Hymn "Come, Share the Lord" No. 696

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

**BLESSING OF THE BREAD AND CUP** 

**SHARING THE MEAL** 

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**

"Lord, You Give the Great Commission" No. 592

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

Praising God's Glory, the flowers are presented by Howard & Katie Gotham in memory of loved ones.



# On The Calendar/Announcements

Church Anniversary Concert Saturday, September 9, 4:00 PM, in Sanctuary

## PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Gary Klingsporn, Pastor Ingrid Howard, Liturgist Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music Congregation, Ministers to the World

# **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Rev. Dr. Gary Klingsporn Email: <a href="mailto:gklingsporn@comcast.net">gklingsporn@comcast.net</a> Phone: (508) 680-4007

## **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

