



*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.



## 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

**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**

“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:**

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