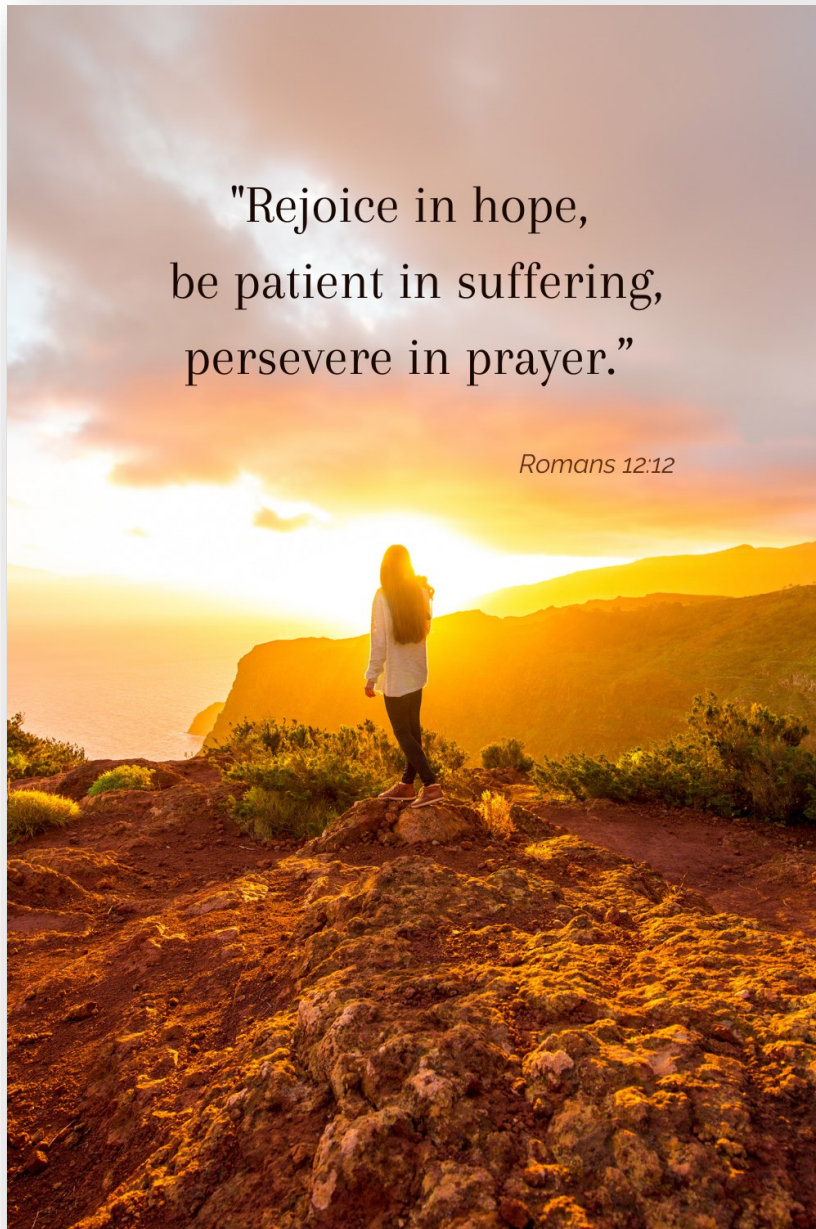


"Rejoice in hope,
be patient in suffering,
persevere in prayer."

Romans 12:12



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

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 24, 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* Matthew 5:3-9

L: Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
P: **for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

L: Blessed are those who mourn,
P: **for they will be comforted.**

L: Blessed are those who hunger
and thirst for righteousness,
P: **for they will be filled.**

L: Blessed are the merciful,
P: **for they will receive mercy.**

L: Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
P: **Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God."**

L: Come, let us worship God.
All: **Open our eyes to see you, Lord.
Open our hearts to know your truth.**

***GATHERING HYMN** “Morning Has Broken” No. 35

PRAYER OF THE DAY *unison*

Holy God, we lift our hearts to you, aware of the need and suffering in our world. We know the pain and struggles of people around us; we have our own pain and struggles as well. Help us be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer, and rejoice in hope, trusting you, who promise to be with us always. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *unison*

Merciful God, whose patience goes far beyond our sin and brokenness, renew in us your call to repentance. Give us the grace to turn to you, and acknowledge our sin – the wrong we have done, and the right we have failed to do. Grant us your healing forgiveness, that we may live confidently, bearing the fruit of love and service to others. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

MISSION POSSIBLE COLLECTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

HYMN “All the Way My Savior Leads Me” No. 505

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

We give thee but thine own, whatever the gift may be.
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord from thee.
Bless our offering, O God, that it may touch the lives of all
who have need, who seek new hope, and need to know
your love. Amen.

ANTHEM

THE WORD OF GOD

The Gospel Reading

Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. Jesus asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

The Epistle Reading

Romans 12:9-12

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

SERMON "It's Hard to Let God Be God"

***SENDING HYMN**

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing" No. 719

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**



On The Calendar/Announcements

Dinner Play Rehearsal, September 24, 5:00 PM

Deacon's Meeting, September 25, 7:00 PM Via Zoom

Linus blankets, September 26, 10:00 a.m.

Lunch with the Pastor, October 12, 12:00,
sign up with Missions

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

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

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Rev. Dr. Gary Klingsporn
Email: gklingsporn@comcast.net
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

