



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

ORDER OF WORSHIP  
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
October 1, 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*    Colossians 3:12-17

L: As God's beloved ones, clothe yourselves with  
compassion, kindness, humility, and patience.

P: **Bear with one another, and if anyone has a  
complaint against another, forgive each other.**

L: Just as God has forgiven you,  
so you also must forgive.

P: **Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which  
binds everything together in perfect harmony.**

L: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,  
and be thankful.

P: **With gratitude sing psalms, hymns,  
and spiritual songs to God.**

L: Let us worship God.

**All: And whatever we do, in word or deed,  
let us do everything in the name of Christ,  
giving thanks to God.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN**

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” No. 59

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*unison*

Gracious God, you sent Jesus into the world so that we might live through him. Help us abide in him, so that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy. Amen.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*unison*

Loving God, you have promised to receive us when we come to you. We confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed. We have not always loved you and our neighbors as we should. Forgive us, and grant 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**

**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*

Loving God, you have gifted us with life in Christ.  
In joyful response we now bring the gifts of our hearts,  
our work, and our resources. May all that we bring,  
and all that we are, be your means of grace in the world,  
that all people may experience your good news. Amen.

**ANTHEM**

**THE WORD OF GOD**

**The Gospel Reading**

**John 15:5, 12-16**

Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.... This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name."

**SERMON**

"Fruit That Will Last"

**\*HYMN OF COMMUNITY**

"Will You Let Me Be Your Servant"

No. 391

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**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**      "We Are God's People"                      No. 547

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

Praising God's Glory, the flowers are presented by  
Lamar and Loretta in memory of loved ones



## *On The Calendar/Announcements*

Dinner Play Rehearsal, October 1, 5:00 PM

Fidget blankets, October 3, 9:00 a.m.

Anniversary Worship Service and Lunch - October 8 -  
please sign up if you plan on attending

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

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### **200th Anniversary Celebration is NEXT Sunday (10/8)!**

Be sure to RSVP for the luncheon that will follow the worship service by phoning the Church Office (603-654-9045) or emailing the same to [200anniversary@2ccwilton.org](mailto:200anniversary@2ccwilton.org) Please send RSVP for the luncheon only by Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup> as there is limited seating in the Parish Hall.

**Looking for help on Saturday, Oct 7 at 10 AM - Noon** to set up the Hall and Sanctuary (if needed) - tables, chairs, tablecloths and decorations for next Sunday's Anniversary Celebration. **Also please check the donations list for side dishes and finger foods for the tables at the sign up on the back table.**

## **PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Rev. Dr. Gary Klingsporn, Pastor  
Laura Clough, Liturgist  
Karen Nelson, Guest Musician  
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music  
Congregation, Ministers to the World

### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Rev. Dr. Gary Klingsporn  
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### **Email for Church Administration**

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