



**For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven**

Ecclesiastes 3:1

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
October 22, 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* Lamentations 3:22-23

L: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.

P: **God's mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning.
Great is your faithfulness, O God.**

L: Come, let us worship God.

All: **Blessed are those whose hope
is in the Lord their God.**

***GATHERING HYMN** "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" No. 72

PRAYER OF THE DAY *unison*

**God of our life, through all the circling years,
we trust in you. Give us eyes to see your love at work
in the world. Give us hearts to know your presence in
every season of our lives. Give us hands to serve you
each day, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

unison

Gentle and most merciful God, we have not loved as you have loved us, nor have we always lived as we ought. Forgive our sin. Lift us above every past regret and present failure; and give us grace to grow more and more in your likeness. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

HYMN

“God of Our Life”

No. 409

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 things come from you, O God: the light of the rising sun; the enfolding darkness of night; our food, drink, clothing; the gift of each day we live. In gratitude we bring our offering to you. Bless and use these gifts to bring life and joy to others. Amen.

ANTHEM

THE WORD OF GOD

The Hebrew Scriptures

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

SERMON

“The Seasons of Our Hearts”

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD’S PRAYER

Gracious God, we give thanks for the beauty of worship and for the words sung and spoken on this day. By your Spirit, send us out now to live the life you call us to live, serving others and bringing hope and joy to all.

Praying now the prayer Jesus taught us:

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**

“Savior, Again to Your Dear Name”

No. 711

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

On The Calendar/Announcements

- Dinner Play Rehearsal, October 22, 5:00 PM
- Blessing of the Animals - after worship service on the front lawn
- Next week's Mission Possible offering will be dedicated to Bridges Women's Shelter
- Deacons Meeting - Monday 10/30 7pm via Zoom
- Dinner Plays are coming up - November 10 & 11 -
- need help in kitchen, waiting tables and baking cakes - please sign up to help or speak with Sue Jean for more information.

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

In support of that, Missions is collecting items for the local women's shelter in our area, Bridges. Here is a wish list if you would like to bring in items to be donated. Consider adding a product or two to your cart when you shop. Donations can be brought to the front of the sanctuary and added to the basket through October. Thank you for your generosity.

Tracfones with minutes, cleaning products, deodorant, dishwashing soap, gas cards, hand and body soap, laundry detergent, paper towels, full size shampoo/conditioner, shaving cream and razors, tissues, toilet paper, toothbrushes and paste, trash bags, and non-perishable food such as canned food, cereal, coffee/tea, pasta, rice, sugar and flour.

Praising God's Glory, the flowers are presented by
Jeff and Mary Ellen Gilson -
in celebration of 17 years of marriage



PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Gary Klingsporn, Pastor
Violet Blake, Liturgist

Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music
Congregation, Ministers to the World

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