



*“Making the most  
of the time...”*

*Ephesians 5:16*

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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**  
**February 4, 2024**

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** Psalm 90:1-2, 12-14  
*responsively*

L: Lord, you have been our dwelling place  
in all generations.

P: **Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or you had formed the earth, from everlasting to  
everlasting you are God.**

L: Teach us to number our days that we may gain a  
heart of wisdom.

P: **Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,  
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**

L: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving.

All: **Let us make a joyful noise to God with songs  
of praise.**

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

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*unison*

God of our life, our times are in your hands. In the gift of each new day, let us be thankful. In times of change, grant us faith. When we are discouraged, give us hope. And every day, give us hands, feet, and hearts to serve you by loving and serving others. Amen.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*unison*

Holy and most merciful God, we have not loved you as you love us, nor have we loved others as we ought. Forgive our sin. Lift us above our past regrets and present failures; and give us grace to grow more and more in your likeness. In your name we pray. Amen.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**PASTORAL 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*

For the beauty of your good earth, for the people you have given us to love, for the tasks you call us to do, we give you thanks, O God. Bless these gifts we bring this morning, and use them for your purposes in our church, our community, and the world. Amen.

**ANTHEM**

## THE WORD OF GOD

### The Epistle Reading

Ephesians 5:15-20

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### Sermon

“Is Today Tomorrow?”

### HYMN

“O God of Love”

O God of love, we live our life before you,  
you give us birth, then your unending years,  
each rising sun, each day, and then our evening;  
then comes the sleep, then waking from the dead.  
You know our fears; now hold us in our crying.  
Show us your faith to wipe away our tears.

Give us your faith, your laughter, your compassion.  
Give us your dream, your hope, your thankfulness.  
Give us your strength to bear the pain of sinning,  
your healing touch, your hope, your confidence.  
Give us new eyes to see our sister, brother,  
the miracle of strength in quiet love.

Show us our floods, our hurts, our fear, our famine.  
Show us your lambs who have not found their way.  
Show us your earth, your rain, the mighty acorn,  
your open way, new life, new victory.  
We stand where saints have walked with joy before us.  
You give your grace for us to give away.

O God of love, give us the faith to see you,  
the light, the Lamb, the river, then the tree,  
Jerusalem, the feast with saints and angels,  
unending song of splendor, dressed in light.  
Meet us with Christ by faith in song and sorrow.  
Tomorrow wake us to eternity.

—Herbert F. Brokering (2003 Augsburg Fortress) Tune: Finlandia

## HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

BLESSING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

SHARING THE MEAL

THE LORD'S PRAYER *unison*

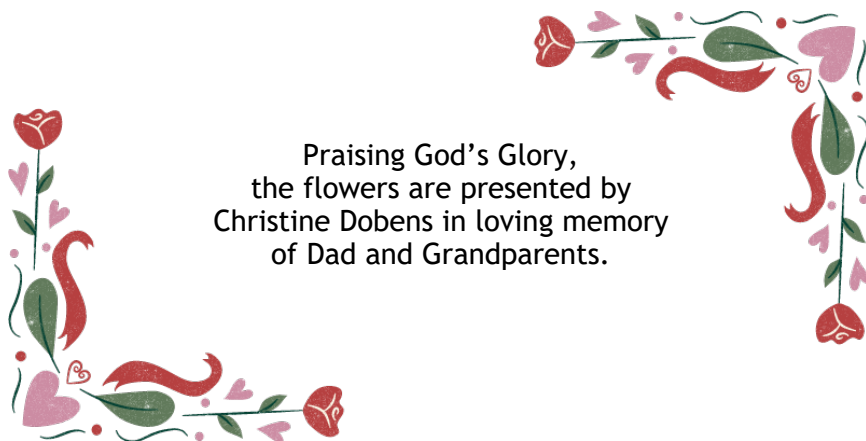
Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

\*SENDING HYMN

"God of the Ages, History's Maker" No. 78

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE



Praising God's Glory,  
the flowers are presented by  
Christine Dobens in loving memory  
of Dad and Grandparents.

*On The Calendar/Announcements*

- Old Home Days Committee meeting, following worship

**Old Home Days Committee formation -**  
meeting today following worship.

please join the meeting if you have ideas on how the Church can be present during the week of activities or if you are willing to be on the committee to help out in other ways. The more the merrier.

**Rummage Sale—Saturday, February 17**

need help setting up the days before, workers for the day of and cleanup crew later in the day on Saturday.

Please sign up or see Loretta.

**Prepared to Serve**

Saturday February 24 - A day of workshops -  
booklets are available to browse or you can go  
online to: [nhcucc.info/pts2024](http://nhcucc.info/pts2024)

If interested register soon - workshops fill up quickly.

**PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

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

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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