



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

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
February 11, 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** *responsively*

L: Gracious God, in worship you open wide the doors
and welcome us into your presence.

P: **You spread a table before us,
a feast of love and mercy for body and soul.**

L: We come with joy to meet you here, O God,

P: **to taste and see your goodness,
to celebrate your grace and mercy.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord, who is good.

All: **Let your steadfast love, O God,
be upon us even as we hope in you.**

***GATHERING HYMN**

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” No. 358

PRAYER OF THE DAY *unison*

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before
all people. You offer life with abundance. Call us again
to your banquet, where all are invited. Help us welcome
others to join us; and make us a people of love, serving
others in your name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

HYMN

“The Bond of Love”
“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

No. 395
No. 134

We are one in the bond of love;
we are one in the bond of love.
We have joined our spirit with the Spirit of God;
we are one in the bond of love.

Let us sing now, everyone;
let us feel God’s love begun.
Let us join our hands that the world will know
we are one in the bond of love.

There’s a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know that it’s the Spirit of the Lord;
there are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
without a doubt we’ll know that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place.

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

Gracious God, in response to the ways in which you have blessed us, we now bring the gifts of our hearts and lives. May all that we bring and all that we are, be your means of grace in the world, that others may experience your love. Amen.

ANTHEM

THE WORD OF GOD

The Gospel Reading

Luke 14:16-24

Then Jesus said, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.'

So the servant returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.'"

Sermon

"Why Are You Here?"

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND 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**

“We Are Called to Be God’s People”

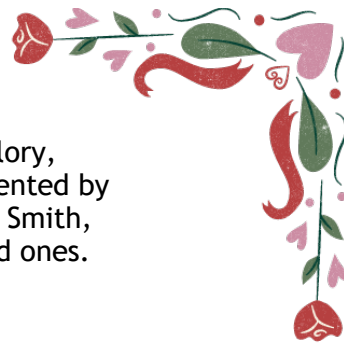
No. 580

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**



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



On The Calendar/Announcements

- Project Linus, February 13, 9:30 AM
- Ash Wednesday Worship Service, February 14, 7:00 PM
- Church Council Mtg., February 20, 7:00 PM via Zoom.

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

If interested register soon - workshops fill up quickly.

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

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

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