



***“Forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who
trespass against us.”***

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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP
First Sunday in Lent
February 18, 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: The season of Lent sets us on a journey—
a journey with Jesus to Jerusalem and the Cross.

P: **We hear you calling us, Lord.
We see you motioning us to follow you.**

L: Walk with us, Lord.

P: **Teach us what it means to take up our cross
and follow you.**

L: Empty us of all that would keep us from
experiencing the meaning of your suffering
for the sake of the world.

All: **Teach us your way, O Christ,
that we may walk in your truth.**

***GATHERING HYMN**

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

No. 96

PRAYER OF THE DAY

unison

Merciful God, help us to recognize our need for your forgiveness. Give us the courage to forgive others and to love our neighbors as you love us, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PSALM

Psalm 51:1-4, 10-12

unison

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against you alone have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight....

Create in me a clean heart,
O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

unison

Holy God, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Forgive us. Grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Epistle Reading

Colossians 3:12-14

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Sermon

“Fixing Our Mistakes”

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.

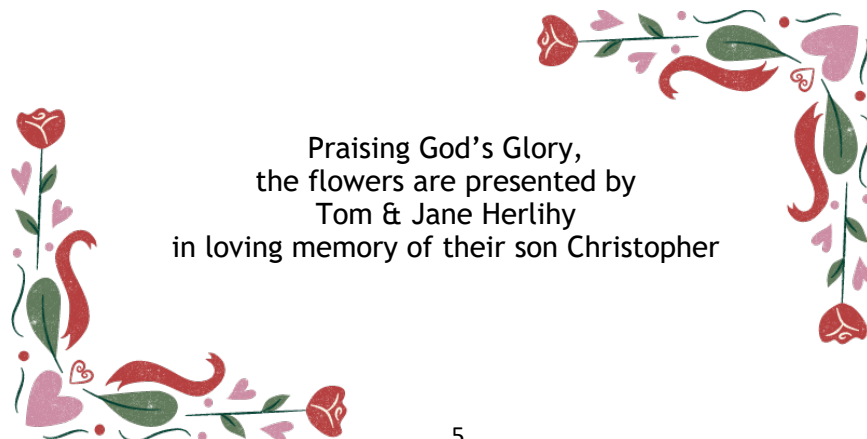
***SENDING HYMN**

“I Then Shall Live”

No. 372

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**



Praising God's Glory,
the flowers are presented by
Tom & Jane Herlihy
in loving memory of their son Christopher

On The Calendar/Announcements

- Church Council Mtg., February 20, 7:00 PM via Zoom.
- Fidget Blankets, February 20, 9:00 AM

There are Flower Openings
on February 25 and March 3 -
See Lori Dick if interested

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.

THE SEASON OF LENT

Today is the first Sunday in the season of Lent,
which began this past week on Ash Wednesday.
The word "Lent" is from an old English word *lencten*,
meaning "spring." The word may also be related to the word
for "lengthen," referring to the lengthening of days during
the season of spring. Lent is traditionally observed for forty
days (excluding Sundays) between Ash Wednesday and Easter.

The forty days commemorate the forty days Jesus spent fasting
in the wilderness before beginning his public ministry.
Lent is a time of reflection, self-examination, prayer, fasting,
and renewal as we focus on Jesus' journey to the Cross and
what it means for us as followers of Jesus.
The Lenten journey ends in the joy and celebration of Easter.

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

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

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