

A vertical rectangular graphic with a textured blue background. The text is centered and reads: "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all."

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servant of all.

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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP
Third Sunday in Lent
March 3, 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 103:1-5 *responsively*

L: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,
bless God's holy name.

P: **Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all
God's benefits –**

L: who forgives our iniquity, who heals our diseases,

P: **who redeems our life from the Pit, who crowns us
with steadfast love and mercy,**

L: who satisfies us with good as long as we live so that
our youth is renewed like the eagle's.

All: **Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.**

***GATHERING HYMN**

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

No. 71

PRAYER OF THE DAY

unison

O God, our teacher and our guide, you welcome us and draw us to yourself as beloved children. Help us lay aside our human assumptions about power, status, self-interest, and greatness. In Christ, teach us what it means to be “last of all and servant of all,” that we may walk in your way of wisdom and live to your glory. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

unison

Holy and merciful God, we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, our failure to love others as you call us to love. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, and in forgetting your love. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways, through Christ our Lord. 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

Generous God, we thank you for all your blessings great and small. We now bring our gifts as expressions of our gratitude. Bless these offerings for the well-being of others, and give us wisdom and strength to live more fully for you. Amen.

ANTHEM

THE WORD OF GOD

The Gospel Reading

Mark 9:30-37

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But his disciples did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the One who sent me."

SERMON

"Do You See This Child?"

HYMN

"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 THE 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 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**

"Sent Forth by God's Blessing" No. 712

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

On The Calendar/Announcements

Fidget Blankets, March 5, 9:00 AM

**We will be taking a UCC collection
One Great Hour of Sharing
On Sunday—March 10.**

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and the long-term recovery.

Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

Praising God's Glory,
the flowers are presented by
Lamar and Loretta Smith
in loving memory of their friend Donna B.



PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

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

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