



“The wind blows where it wills,  
and you hear the sound of it,  
but you do not know where it comes  
from or where it goes....”

*John 3:8*



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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP  
Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 10, 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: Come, Spirit of the living God,  
to renew and restore us.

P: **Come, Spirit of might, with power from above,  
to make our weakness strong.**

L: Come, Spirit of truth, and teach us all things  
in the light of eternity.

P: **Come, Spirit of gentleness,  
bringing us peace and comfort.**

L: Let us worship God, the Lord and Giver of life.

All: **Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with love.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN**

“Holy God, We Praise Your Name” No. 138

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*unison*

God of light and truth, by water and the Spirit you bring us to new birth to live as your people. Keep us open to new encounters with you, new promptings of your Spirit, so that we may grow in your grace and serve you always. Amen.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*unison*

Merciful God, we know that you call us to fullness of life, but around us and within us we see the brokenness of the world and of our ways. We have often failed to love you and love our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us our sins, known and unknown, that we may live and serve you in newness of life, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**HYMN**           “Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song”   No. 327

**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*

Holy God, use these gifts, and us, for your purposes of love and healing in this world, so that your kingdom may come and your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Amen.

## **ANTHEM**

### **THE WORD OF GOD**

#### **The Gospel Reading**

**John 3:1-12**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit."

"Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? "

#### **SERMON**

**"Listen to the Wind"**

**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.

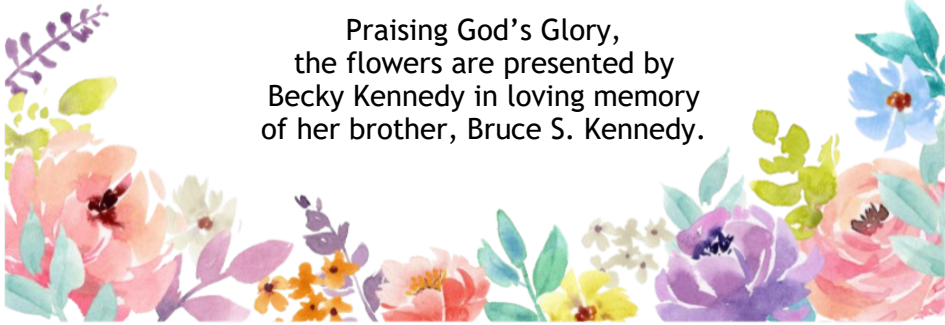
**\*SENDING HYMN**

“Spirit of the Living God”

No. 492

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**



Praising God's Glory,  
the flowers are presented by  
Becky Kennedy in loving memory  
of her brother, Bruce S. Kennedy.

*On The Calendar/Announcements*

March 12, Project Linus, 9:30 AM

March 19, Church Council, 7:00 PM via Zoom

March 23, Family Game Night, 4:00–10:00 PM

March 28, Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 PM

**PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

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

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