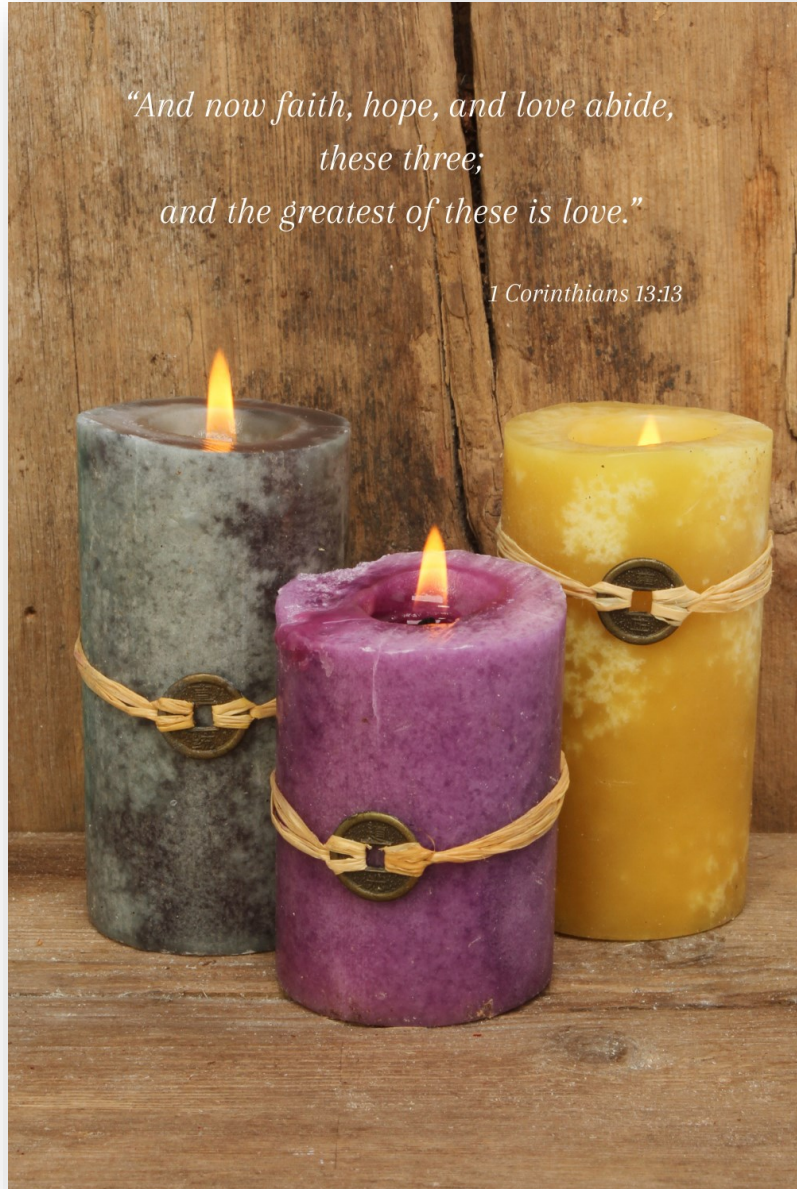


*“And now faith, hope, and love abide,
these three;
and the greatest of these is love.”*

1 Corinthians 13:13



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

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 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 “How Great Thou Art”

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 103:1-5 *responsively*

L: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me.

P: **Bless God’s holy name.**

L: Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits—

P: **who forgives all our iniquity,
who heals our diseases,**

L: who crowns us with steadfast love and mercy,

P: **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**

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

No. 358

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

unison

Holy and merciful 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 always loved you with our whole heart; we have not always loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

unison

Gracious God, fill us with faith that opens us to your presence, hope that trusts you for the future, and love that enables us to love others, as you love us. Amen.

MISSION POSSIBLE OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

HYMN "Will You Let Me Be Your Servant" No. 391

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, 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. With these offerings we give ourselves to you, so that through us your love may bring healing, hope, and joy to others. Amen.

ANTHEM

“Be Thou My Vision”

THE WORD OF GOD

First Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

SERMON “The Greatest of These Is Love”

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 God’s People” No. 547

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

On The Calendar/Announcements

- Deacons Meeting, April 29, 7:00 PM via zoom
- Fidget Blankets, April 30, 9:00 AM
- Bible Study, May 1, 6:30–8:00 PM

Church Missions will be collecting
items for the homeless in Manchester.

We are requesting the following items:

- ⇒ Small packages of snack items
- ⇒ Small packages of tissues
- ⇒ Deodorant
- ⇒ Chap Stick
- ⇒ Small boxes of Yoo Hoo chocolate milk drink
- ⇒ Small bottles of water
- ⇒ Socks
- ⇒ Toothpaste, toothbrushes and mouthwash

All of these items will be packed in gallon size bags.

Praising God's Glory,
the flowers are presented by
Joe and Liz Torre
in loving memory of Joe's mother Kay



PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Gary Klingsporn, Pastor
Debra Klingsporn, Liturgist
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music
Laura (Katy) Gomez, Soloist
Congregation, Ministers to the World

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