



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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP
Second Sunday of Easter
April 7, 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 118:14, 23-24 *responsively*

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

P: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

L: This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

P: **God is my strength and my might
and has become my salvation.**

L: This is the day that the Lord has made.

P: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: **O give thanks to the Lord,
whose steadfast love endures forever.**

***GATHERING HYMN**

"Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven" No. 289

PRAYER OF THE DAY

unison

Lord Jesus, you made yourself known to your disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see you. Walk with us on the journey. Awaken hope within us. Give us strength to love and serve you through all our days, until at last we see you in our heavenly home. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

unison

Gentle and most merciful God, we have not loved as you have loved us, nor have we always lived as we ought. Forgive us our sin. Lift us above ever past regret and failure; and give us grace to grow more and more in your likeness. In your holy name we pray. 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

All things come from you, O God: the light of the rising sun; the enfolding darkness of night; our food, drink, clothing; the gift of each new day we live. In gratitude we bring our offering to you. Bless and use these gifts to bring life, hope, and joy to others. Amen.

ANTHEM

THE WORD OF GOD

The Gospel Reading

Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad.

Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him."

Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to

stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

SERMON

"Open Our Eyes"

***HYMN**

"The Day of Resurrection!"

No. 298

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**

“Thine Is the Glory”

No. 310

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Praising God’s Glory,
the flowers are presented by
Kevin and Sue Jean
in loving memory of Roland Jean.



On The Calendar/Announcements

- Project Linus, April 9, 10:00 AM
 - Church Council, April 16, 7:00 PM via Zoom
 - Dinner Plays, April 19 and 20
- Help is needed** - cooking turkeys, working in the kitchen, waiting on tables and baking cakes. If you can help, please reach out to Loretta or add your name to the sign-up sheets at the back of the Church.

Dinner Play tickets are on sale now -
See Sue Jean to purchase tickets.

Bible Study:

“You Are the Light of the World”
A Study of the Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 5-7
Wednesdays, April 17-May 22, 6:30-8pm
Parish Hall

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

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

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