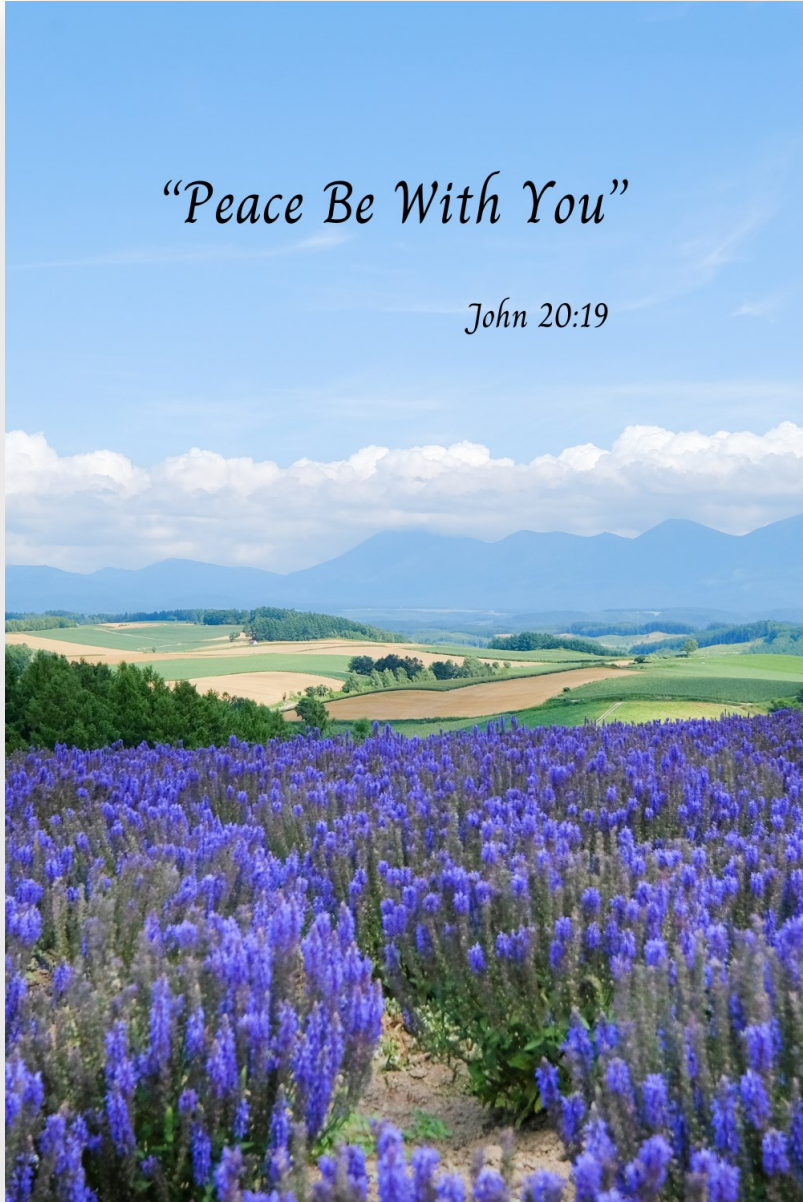


“Peace Be With You”

John 20:19



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

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 21, 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 98 *responsively*

L: Sing a new song to the Lord,
who has done marvelous things.

P: **God's right hand and holy arm
have gotten the victory.**

L: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

P: **Let the sea roar and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.**

L: Sing a new song to the Lord. Sing praises!

All: **Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy
at the presence of the Lord.**

***GATHERING HYMN**

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

No. 59

PRAYER OF THE DAY

unison

God of life, in our fears you reach out to us with the wounded hands of the risen Christ. In a world filled with suffering, evil, and violence you offer us the gift of peace. Grant us the wisdom and strength to serve others and share with others your joy and peace in all that we say and do. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

HYMN "In the Bulb There Is a Flower" No. 515

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, bless these gifts and use them to serve the needs of others and bear witness to the power of Christ's resurrection. Amen.

ANTHEM

THE WORD OF GOD

John 20:19-23

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Psalm 16:1-2, 7-11

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you"....

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

I keep the Lord always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure. For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit.

You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

SERMON

"Peace Be with You"

SENDING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER *unison*

O Christ, who died in the flesh but was made alive in the spirit, let us find our deepest longings in you, the desire for peace that is deeper than strife, the yearning for unity that is deeper than division. Show us your wounds, that in the brokenness of life we may see your resurrection presence.

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**

"Take My Life and Let It Be" No. 466

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

On The Calendar/Announcements

- Project Linus - April 23, 10:00 AM
- Bible Study, April 24, 6:30–8:00 PM
- Deacons Meeting, April 29, 7:00 PM via zoom

**There are openings for flowers
in May, June, July and beyond.
Sign up sheet on bulletin board
in parish hall by coffee pot**

Praising God's Glory,
the flowers are presented by
Stephanie and Peter Ouellette
in loving memory of Nancy Straw



PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

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

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