



The Power  
of  
small

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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 22, 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**                      Isaiah 40:28-31                      *responsively*

L: Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord,  
all the earth.

P: **The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.**

L: God does not grow faint or weary.

P: **God's understanding is unsearchable.**

L: God gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.

P: **Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;**

L: but those who wait for the Lord  
shall renew their strength.

All: **They shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk  
and not faint. Let us worship God.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN**

“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”                      No. 82

**\*PASSING THE PEACE**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*unison*

Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth, yet as close as our own breath: Help us lay aside our assumptions about power, status, and greatness. Remind us to focus on the small things, out of which you bring great things. When we are weak, make us strong; when we are discouraged, give us hope; and in all things, help us to trust in you. Amen.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**HYMN**

“Lord of All Hopefulness”

No. 469

**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*

Gracious God, with these gifts we offer ourselves.  
Here we are, your hands and feet in the world.  
Help us to reach out and serve others with the love  
you have shown us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**ANTHEM**

## THE WORD OF GOD

### The Old Testament Reading

Judges 7:1-8

Then Gideon and all the troops that were with him rose early and encamped beside the spring of Harod; and the camp of Midian was north of them, below the hill of Moreh, in the valley. The Lord said to Gideon, "The troops with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand. Israel would only take the credit away from me, saying, 'My own hand has delivered me.' Now therefore proclaim this in the hearing of the troops, 'Whoever is fearful and trembling, let him return home.'" Thus Gideon sifted them out; twenty-two thousand returned, and ten thousand remained.

Then the Lord said to Gideon, "The troops are still too many; take them down to the water and I will sift them out for you there. When I say, 'This one shall go with you,' he shall go with you; and when I say, 'This one shall not go with you,' he shall not go." So he brought the troops down to the water; and the Lord said to Gideon, "All those who lap the water with their tongues, as a dog laps, you shall put to one side; all those who kneel down to drink, putting their hands to their mouths, you shall put to the other side." The number of those that lapped was three hundred; but all the rest of the troops knelt down to drink water.

Then the Lord said to Gideon, "With the three hundred that lapped I will deliver you, and give the Midianites into your hand. Let all the others go to their homes." So he took the jars of the troops from their hands, and their trumpets; and he sent all the rest of Israel back to their own tents, but retained the three hundred. The camp of Midian was below him in the valley.

**The Gospel Reading**

Luke 21:1-4

Jesus looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on."

**SERMON**

"The Power of Small"

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

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

## CHURCH PRAYER LIST

For the week of September 22, 2024

Please keep the following persons in your thoughts  
and prayers this week:

Janey  
Jeff  
Jen  
Lisa  
Joanna E  
Bill C  
Don K  
Rose & Steve  
Tom H  
James  
Krista D  
John Hanlon  
Donna  
Brenda  
Bernie & Rachel  
Mary Ellen  
David V  
Bill D  
David  
Eva  
Lorin  
Caitlyn  
Family of Andy K  
Family of Dirk W

## On The Calendar

Project Linus, September 24, 10:00 AM

Praising God's Glory,  
the flowers are presented by  
Howard and Katie Gotham  
in celebration of Howard's 89<sup>th</sup> birthday



**PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Rev. Dr. Gary Klingsporn, Pastor  
Lori Dick, Chris & Alexandra Gerry, Guest Worship Leaders  
Dana Dahl, Liturgist  
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music  
Congregation, Ministers to the World

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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