



*"Telling Our Stories:
The Psalms"*

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP
First Sunday in Lent
March 9, 2025

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: The season of Lent sets us on a journey.

P: **We follow Jesus to Jerusalem and the Cross.**

L: We learn again what it means to take up our crosses
and be servants of all.

P: **Our call is to trust God and seek God's will
in all things.**

L: Walk with us, Lord; create a holy pause in
our cluttered lives.

P: **From ashes to "hosannas" we will follow you.**

L: Teach us your paths and lead us in your truth.

All: Shine in our hearts, Lord, with the light of your love.

***GATHERING HYMN**

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

No. 71

***PASSING THE PEACE**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

unison

Merciful God, help us recognize our need for your forgiveness. Help us forgive others, and love our neighbors as you love us. Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us bring love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is despair, hope; where there is sadness, joy; that we may bring healing to your world. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

unison

Holy 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 loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Forgive us. Grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

HYMN “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days” No. 252

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, bless these gifts. Use them to bless the poor and the poor in spirit; to feed the hungry and the hungry in soul; and to comfort those who weep. Use us, we pray, to make this your church, a place of love where people find welcome and peace, in Christ's name. Amen.

ANTHEM

THE WORD OF GOD

The Gospel Reading

Luke 9:18-22

Once when Jesus was praying alone, with only the disciples near him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" They answered, "John the Baptist; but others, Elijah; and still others, that one of the ancient prophets has arisen." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered, "The Messiah of God." He sternly ordered and commanded them not to tell anyone, saying, "The Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."

SERMON

"Telling Our Stories: The Psalms"
(First in a Series)

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**

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing” No. 719

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

THE SEASON OF LENT

Today is the first Sunday in the season of Lent, which began this past week on Ash Wednesday. The word “Lent” is from an old English word *lencten*, meaning “spring.” The word may also be related to the word for “lengthen,” referring to the lengthening of days during the season of spring. Lent is traditionally observed for forty days (excluding Sundays) between Ash Wednesday and Easter. The forty days commemorate the forty days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness before beginning his public ministry. Lent is a time of reflection, self-examination, prayer, fasting, and renewal as we remember Jesus’ journey to the Cross and what it means for us as followers of Jesus. The Lenten journey ends in the joy and celebration of Easter.

CHURCH PRAYER LIST

For the week of March 9, 2025

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

Jen
Lisa
Don K
Bernie & Rachel
Bill and Olive D
Caitlyn
Jim T
Krista
Charlotte
Cassie W
Sylvie
Tom B
Lorraine
Regina K
Courtney

John S
Darrel B
Donna
Diane
Beckett
Kanisha
Carol K
Noel
Mary Sue
Bob D
Joanne H
Shawn D
Allison M
Gail C

On The Calendar/Announcements

- Linus Project, Tuesday, March 11 - 10:00 AM\
- Lay Visitation Group, Tuesday, March 11 - 12:00 PM
- Rummage Sale, Saturday, March 15, help is needed to set up on Friday and also workers on Saturday. Please sign up! Even a couple of hours will help.
- Church Council, Tuesday, March 18, 7:00 PM via Zoom

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



PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

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

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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