



“ If any want to
become my followers,
let them deny
themselves and
take up their cross
and follow me.”

Matthew 16:24

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
August 24, 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** Matthew 5:3-9 *responsively*

L: Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit,

P: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

L: Blessed are those who mourn,

P: for they shall be comforted.

L: Blessed are those who hunger
and thirst for righteousness,

P: for they will be filled.

L: Blessed are the merciful,

P: for they will receive mercy.

L: Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

**P: Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God."**

L: Come, let us worship God.

**All: Open our eyes that we may see you, Lord.
Open our hearts that we may know your truth.**

***GATHERING HYMN**

“I Sing the Almighty Power of God”

No. 31

***PASSING THE PEACE**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

unison

Gracious God, we thank you for your Son Jesus, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Teach us what it means to take up our cross and follow him. Show us the way of self-giving love in Christ, who took the form of a servant of all. Amen.

RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

HYMN

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

No. 603

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

Eternal God, through your goodness you have blessed us with the gifts of our lives, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and these offerings we now bring, to nurture faith among us, provide for those who are in need, and give hope to all. Amen.

ANTHEM

THE WORD OF GOD

Matthew 16:21-25

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

SERMON

"The Gravely Thread"

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** “Will You Come and Follow Me”

No. 350

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**



Praising God’s Glory
the flowers are presented by
Christine Dobens in Celebration
of Billy Dobens Birthday



On The Calendar/Announcements

- Linus Project, Tuesday, August 26, 10:00 AM
- We will be having our normal Sunday Service at Cathedral of the Pines on Sunday, September 14 at 10:30am
- Our next Rummage Sale will be on Saturday September 13 - this will be the same day as the Town Wide Yard Sale - we are hoping for a great turnout. Watch for Sign Up sheets

CHURCH PRAYER LIST

For the week of August 24, 2025
Please keep the following persons
in your thoughts and prayers this week:

Becky K
Ryan
Sandy B
Nora
Linda K
Leslee S & Ashley C
Jim K
Martha & Lou
Fred D
Madeleine D
John S
Donna S
Mary Sue
Ellen V
James P
Marsha
Jerry S
Heather
John H
Bob M
Matt S

Mary Ellen
Jen
Don K
Caitlyn
Jim T
Krista
Sylvie
Lorraine
Courtney
Darrel B
Donna
Diane
Carol K
Bob D
Shawn D
Gail C
Amanda
Kathy & Dennis F
Janet
Shawna



PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

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

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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