



“Love your enemies...”

Matthew 5:44

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 5, 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** *Psalm 46:10-11; Romans 12:9-13*
responsively

L: “Be still and know that I am God!”

P: **The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

L: Let your love be genuine; hate what is evil,
hold fast to what is good.

P: **Love one another with mutual affection.**

L: Contribute to one another’s needs;
extend hospitality to strangers.

P: **Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering,
persevere in prayer.**

L: Let us worship God.

All: **The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

***GATHERING HYMN**

“This Is My Father’s World”

No. 21

***PASSING THE PEACE**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

unison

Loving God, we live in a world where disagreements of viewpoint and ideology often turn into hatred of enemies, revenge, and retaliation. You call us, O God, to love our enemies and overcome evil with good. Help us to forgive others and seek the way of peace, so that our words and deeds may always show the love of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

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

Generous God, we thank you for all your blessings great and small. Bless our offerings we now bring, and use them, that they may nurture faith, care for the needs of others, and make a difference in people's lives. Amen.

ANTHEM

THE WORD OF GOD

Matthew 5:43-48

Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Romans 12:14-18, 21

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another.... Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

SERMON

"The Most Difficult Thing"

***HYMN**

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

No. 614

HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

BLESSING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

SHARING THE MEAL

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

“Savior, Again to Your Dear Name”

No. 711

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE



Praising God's Glory
the flowers are presented by
Cindy Chalmers
in loving memory of Bill Chalmers



On The Calendar/Announcements

- **This morning, we will receive the UCC offering - Neighbors in Need.** Gifts to Neighbors in Need support the United Church of Christ's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). The other two-thirds of the offering support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, direct service projects, and grants. Neighbors in Need grants are annually awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities.
- **Lunch with the Pastor, Thursday, October 9 at Noon.** Church Missions is sponsoring "Lunch with the Pastor" We welcome you to join us, so please reserve your spot! Sign up sheet in Link. We will be serving soup, rolls and a dessert. If you need a ride, please speak with Missions (Cindy B, Dana D, Rachel D and Stephanie S). There will be time after the meal for fellowship.
- **Meeting to Plan Recognition Sunday, Sunday, October 12** following Worship
- **Rummage Sale, Saturday, October 18,** we will need helpers on Friday, October 17th to set up and all day Saturday. Please save the date and consider what you can do to help. Signup sheets will be coming soon.

CHURCH PRAYER LIST

For the week of October 5, 2025
Please keep the following persons
in your thoughts and prayers this week:

Family and friends of Becky K
who passed away early
Monday morning
Henry L
Abby
Levi
Mary Ellen
Dottie & Dick
Diane
Lauren
Karen
Malcom
Ginny D
Ted W
Ryan
Sandy B
Leslee S & Ashley C
Martha & Lou
John S
Donna S

Mary Sue
James P
Marsha
Jerry S
John H
Bob M
Matt S
Jen
Don K
Caitlyn
Jim T
Sylvie
Lorraine
Courtney
Diane
Carol K
Amanda
Kathy & Dennis F
Janet
Shawna



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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