

“Where
Are You?”

Genesis 3:9

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

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—
a journey with Jesus to Jerusalem and the Cross.

P: **We hear you calling us, Lord.
We see you motioning us to follow you.**

L: Walk with us, Lord.

P: **Teach us what it means to take up our cross
and follow you.**

L: Empty us of all that would keep us from experiencing
the meaning of your suffering for the sake of the world.

All: **Teach us your way,
O Christ, that we may walk in your truth.**

*GATHERING HYMN

“God of the Ages, History’s Maker”

No. 78

*PASSING THE PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

unison

Gracious God, when we sin, if we're open to your presence, you seek us out in love and offer us your forgiveness. By your Spirit, help us always to confess our sin and experience the joy of your healing grace. Amen.

MISSION POSSIBLE OFFERING

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

unison

Holy and merciful God, we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, our failure to love others as you call us to love. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, and in forgetting your love. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

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 healing, in Christ's name. Amen.

ANTHEM

THE WORD OF GOD

The Hebrew Scriptures

Genesis 3:1-13

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" The man said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."

SERMON

“Where Are You?”

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

“I Then Shall Live”

No. 372

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

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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 focus on 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.

On The Calendar/Announcements

- **Deacons Meeting**, Monday, February 23, 7:00 PM via Zoom
- **Linus Project**, Tuesday, February 24, 10:00 AM
- **Hymn Sing**, Sunday, March 8, 2:00 PM in Parish Hall

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Praising God's Glory
the flowers are presented by
Marilyn Henderson
in loving memory of Marge & Henry



CHURCH PRAYER LIST

For the week of February 22, 2026
Please keep the following persons
in your thoughts and prayers this week:

Mary Sue
Barbara G
Violet & Tedo
Hillary
Patty B
Del
Steve E
Ellen M
Jeannie B
Rachel D
Ryan
Annie
Haley T's mom
Susan H
Sookie
Robin J
Frank A
Seraphin
Kenny
Barbara
Levi

Diane
Sandy B
Martha & Lou
John S
Donna S
Marsha
Jerry S
John H
Bob M
Matt S
Jen
Don K
Caitlyn
Jim T
Lorraine
Diane
Carol K
Kathy & Dennis F
Janet



PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

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

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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