

*"The wind blows where it wills,
and you hear the sound of it,
but you do not know where it
comes from or where it goes.
So it is with everyone who is
born of the Spirit."*

John 3:8



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

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Third Sunday in Lent
March 8, 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: Come, Spirit of the living God, renew and restore us.

P: **Come Spirit, with power from above,
to make our weakness strong.**

L: Come, Spirit of truth, teach us all things
in the light of eternity.

P: **Come, Spirit of gentleness,
bring us peace and comfort.**

L: Let us worship God, the Lord and Giver of life.

All: **Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with love.**

***GATHERING HYMN**

“Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song”

No. 327

***PASSING THE PEACE**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

unison

God of light and truth, by water and the Spirit you
bring us new life as your people. Keep us open to new
experiences of your Spirit, so that we may grow in your
grace and serve you always. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

unison

Merciful God, we know that you call us to fullness of life, but around us and within us we see the brokenness of the world and of our ways. We have often failed to love you and love our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us our sins, known and unknown, that we may live and serve you in newness of life, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

HYMN

“Spirit of the Living God”

No. 492

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

Holy God, use these gifts, and us, for your purposes of love and healing in this world, so that your kingdom may come and your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Amen.

ANTHEM

THE WORD OF GOD

The Gospel Reading

John 3:1-12

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit."

"Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?"

SERMON

"Born from Above"

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”

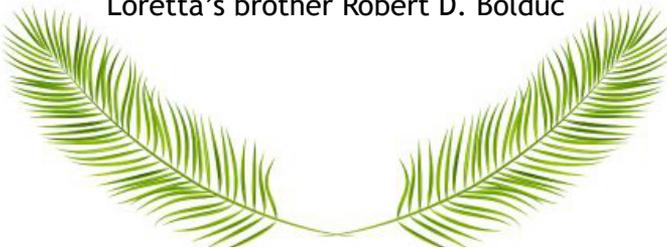
No. 711

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**



Praising God's Glory
the flowers are presented by
Loretta and Lamar Smith
in loving memory of
Loretta's brother Robert D. Bolduc



On The Calendar/Announcements

- Hymn Sing, today - 2:00 PM in Parish Hall
- Project Linus, Tuesday, March 10 - 10:00 AM
- Lay Visitation Group, Tuesday March 10 - 12 Noon
- Summer Fair Planning Meeting following Worship, Sunday, March 15, everyone is invited to attend.
- Church Council Meeting, Tuesday, March 17 - 7:00 PM Via Zoom

We will be taking an offering for the UCC - One Great Hour of Sharing, March 15

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a vital special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. It connects you to disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe. When disasters strike, or when individuals are displaced due to violence or poverty, OGHS ensures immediate response and ongoing recovery.

Through your support, OGHS funds comprehensive development programs in areas such as healthcare, education, agriculture, food security, micro-financing, and women's empowerment. By partnering with Global Ministries and international response networks, OGHS maximizes its impact. Your contributions help meet urgent needs while addressing the root causes of vulnerability, ensuring long-term, sustainable solutions for affected communities.



CHURCH PRAYER LIST

For the week of March 8, 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
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
Peter Ouellette, Liturgist
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music
All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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