



Sunday, April 14, 2024

**Rev. Kathleen Alger
Rev. Debb-Ellen Brown**

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome!*

**First Congregational Church
Wilmot, New Hampshire**

An Open & Affirming and Racial Justice United Church of Christ Congregation
Gathered in 1829

ORDER of WORSHIP – April 14, 2024

PRELUDE MUSIC

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

A TIME OF SILENCE TO CENTER OURSELVES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sometimes good things are right in front of us and we don't see them.

Our fears and our prejudices blind us.

Open your eyes this day to see the goodness of the Lord.

Open our hearts, gracious God, to receive your blessings.

Hallelujah!

Hallelujah!

OPENING HYMN

“Open My Eyes”

Chalice #586

1 Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

2 Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.

Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

3 Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.

Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

OPENING PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, you are so patient with us. You brought us through Easter when we rejoiced at the news of the resurrection of your Son, our Savior. You were with us in the upper room when we remained hidden out of our fears, sharing with Thomas our doubts and anxieties. Now you come to us on the road. You come to us in our everyday lives, moving out of the pristine setting of worship into the work world. But, we aren't always ready for you and don't always see you or feel your presence. We let so many things crowd in on our lives and these intrusions blot out our awareness of your presence. Forgive our blindness and our stubbornness. Help us keep our hearts open to you, to see and tell the good things you have done in our lives. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Even though you have not seen Jesus, one to one, you have assurance of his presence and his love with you. The promises of God are always true. God is with us, in the resurrection of Jesus, in our journeys, in our lives. Praise be to God. Amen.

| | | |
|-------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| ANTHEM | "Peace I Leave With You, My Friends" | Choir |
| SCRIPTURE | Luke 24: 36-49 | Today's NIV |
| REFLECTION | "Unexpected Companion" | Rev. Kathleen Alger |
| HYMN | "Sing Of One Who Walks Beside Us" | Chalice #231 |

1 Sing of the one who walks beside us and this day is living still,
One who now is closer to us than the thoughts our hearts distill,
Christ who once upon a hill-top, raised against the power of sin,
Died in love as his own creatures crucified their God and Friend!

2 We have walked with him as strangers through the journey of the day,

And have told him of the violence that has swept our hope away.
He has offered words of comfort, words of energy and light.
Did our hearts not blaze within us as he broke the bread this night?

3 Risen one, stay with us, raise us, once again the night is near.
Dine with us and share your wisdom, free our hearts from ev'ry fear.
In the calm of each new evening, in the freshness of each dawn,
If you hold us fast in friendship we will never be alone.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

INVITATION TO SHARE JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our * 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen

**We have come to know God by many different names and images. Please use the one which speaks from your heart today. (e.g. Father, Mother, Creator, God...)*

PRAYER RESPONSE "Restless Weaver" vs 4 Chalice #658

**Restless Weaver, still conceiving new life now and yet to be.
Binding all your vast creation in one living tapestry:
You have called us to be weavers. Let your love Guide all we do.
With your Reign of Peace our pattern, we will weave your world anew.**

THE GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

MISSION MOMENT

Jane Norman

INVITATION AND OFFERTORY

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Dear God, please accept these gifts from we who have answered the call to be new life, who witness to the new miracle of Christ risen, and have felt the renewing energy of your Holy Spirit. Use these gifts and all of us to create new life in your church and the world. In Jesus' name, Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Breathe On Me Breath Of God”

Chalice #254

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.

2 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will
to do and to endure.

3 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.

4 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.

CLOSING CIRCLE & COMMISSIONING ONE ANOTHER

Go into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE

“Spirit of The Living God”

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

BENEDICTION

Welcome! Our worship service takes place on N'dakinna, the traditional ancestral homeland of the Abenaki, Penacook and Wabanaki Peoples past and present. We acknowledge and honor with gratitude the land and waterways and the people who have stewarded N'dakinna throughout the generations.

Upcoming Events and Meetings This Week*

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, April 16th | 2-6 pm - Pastoral Hours at Church |
| Wednesday the 17th | 2 pm - Choir Rehearsal |
| Thursday the 18th | Noon – Kearsarge Area Senior Luncheon 2-6 pm – Pastoral Hours at Church 6 pm – AA meeting in Fellowship Hall |
| Sunday the 21st | 7 pm - Green Team Meeting via Zoom 10:00 am –Worship in person & on zoom |

For additional calendar events check the Google Calendar at Wilmotucc.org

Staff and Leadership

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rev. Kathleen Alger: | (603)-315-5905 | kathyalger@icloud.com |
| Rev. Debb-Ellen Brown: | (708)-822-5484 | revdeboraellebrown@gmail.com |
| Ministers | Members and Friends of the Congregation | |
| Music Director | Donna Reade | |
| Religious Education Director | Nancy Allenby | |
| Moderator | Charlie Foss | |
| Clerk | Bob Evans | |
| Deacon of the Month | Lucy Mueller | |

Music Attributions

"Blessed Assurance". Arrangement © 2006, HAL LEONARD CORP. All rights reserved.
"Faith of our Fathers". Arranged by Phillip Keveren, ©2018, HAL LEONARD LLC. All rights reserved.
"Good News! The Chariot's Coming". Arranged by Lloyd Larson, © 2015 Lorenz Publishing Co. All rights reserved.
"Great is Thy Faithfulness". Arranged by Phillip Keveren, ©2021, HAL LEONARD LLC. All rights reserved.
"Peace I Leave with You, My Friends". Words and Music by Ray Repp, © 1967 K & R Music. All rights reserved. Arrangement: © 1994 The Pilgrim Press. All rights reserved.
"Praise God from whom all blessings flow". Words adapted by William B. Abernethy, @ 1995 The Pilgrim Press. All rights reserved.
"Restless Weaver". Words by O. I. Cricket Harrison, ©1995 Chalice Press. All rights reserved. Harmonization by Ronald A. Nelson, ©1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
"Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us". Words by Ralph Write, © 1989 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Harmonization by Charles Anders, © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
"Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart". Arrangement by Phillip Keveren, © 2011 by HAL LEONARD CORPORATION. All rights reserved.
"Sweet Delight, Most Lovely". Music by Sally Ann Morris, © 1993 Sally Ann Morris. All rights reserved.

Reprinted / Podcast / Streamed with Permission under One License #A-742000

First Congregational Church of Wilmot
P.O. Box 204, Wilmot 03287 (Located at 19 N. Wilmot Road
603) 526-7715 www.wilmotucc.org