



Sunday, April 21, 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 21, 2024

PRELUDE MUSIC

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

A TIME OF SILENCE TO CENTER OURSELVES

CALL TO WORSHIP

(adapted from Roddy Hamilton)

When God tripped over the stars this week and sent great lightening sparks
across the night,

God's name was Power.

When God stood in the morning dew a few weeks back and whispered Mary's
name fresh from the tomb,

God's name was Life.

When God held out hands to Thomas and told him to hold on and follow,

God's name was Shepherd.

When God pours water this morning and asks us to find heaven in every drop,

God's name is Grace.

When God shook us awake today and hollowed out an unused moment in front of
us to step into,

God's name is Creator.

When God found us waiting here in the space between heaven and earth, now
and not yet,

God's name is Love.

Friends, let us worship the God of many names.

OPENING HYMN

“Spirit”

NCH #286

Refrain

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.**

**1 You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
Then you coaxed up the mountains from the valley of sleep,
And over the eons you called to each thing,
“Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings”.**

**2 You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand,
And you gifted your people with a law and a land,
When they were confounded with idols and lies,
Then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.**

**3 You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
Then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still,
And down in the city you called once again
When you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.**

**4 You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,
From the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams;
Our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise.**

OPENING PRAYER

SCRIPTURE

John 10: 11-18

Today's NIV

REFLECTION

"Immeasurable, Inconceivable, Inexhaustible"

Rev. Debb-Ellen Brown

HYMN

"By Whatever Name We Call You"

NCH #560

**1 By whatever name we call you Fashioner of spheres,
You are grander, so much wiser than our minds perceive.
Labels limit understanding, God you have no peers.
So, we question –changing, growing—wanting to believe.**

**2 In whatever way we worship, Mystery divine,
You are only dimly known through ritual and creed.
Though we try to capture you in symbol or in sign,
Only as we let you be can longing hearts be freed.**

**3 In whatever gifts we offer, All inclusive One,
You accept your own creation, fragments we return.
Not as owners but as stewards in our giving done.
In true wonder we receive the love we cannot earn.**

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

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

Ever-faithful God, we long to be faithful givers, modeling ourselves on you who have given everything to us. May your Spirit of Abundance, which gives more than we ask or imagine, grace these gifts for your kingdom.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "How Great Thou Art" Chalice #33

**1 O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed.**

Refrain:

**Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee;
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee;
how great thou art, how great thou art!**

**2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:**

**3 And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin:**

CLOSING CIRCLE & COMMISSIONG 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

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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 23rd	2-6 pm - Pastoral Hours at Church
Wednesday the 24th	3 pm - Choir Rehearsal
Thursday the 25th	2-6 pm – Pastoral Hours at Church 6 pm – AA meeting in Fellowship Hall
Sunday the 28th	10:00 am –Worship in person & on zoom

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

Staff and Leadership

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