



Rachelle Eaton watercolor

First Congregational Church Wilmot, New Hampshire

An Open & Affirming Racial Justice Congregation
Of the United Church of Christ

Gathered in 1829

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

***Order of Worship for
Sunday, February 23, 2025***

Minister: Rev. Rachelle Eaton
Music Director: Donna Reade

MORNING WORSHIP - February 23, 2025

A TIME OF GATHERING AND SHARING

Prelude

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Bringing of the Light of Christ

A Time of Silence to Center Ourselves

Our worship service is taking 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.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Call to Worship based on Psalm 37

One: Come, Beloved, and release your frenzied fear.

Many: We come, trusting the enduring promises of the Holy One.

One: Let meekness rise as strength of soul.

Many: May our promised inheritance of love shine brightly all around.

One: May it strengthen us in our waiting and our working.

Many: May all that is evil wither, and all that is good grow to fullness.

One: May the grace of God rest on us all as we gather.

***HYMN**

"I Will Trust in the Lord"

NCH 416

1 I will trust in the Lord,
I will trust in the Lord,
I will trust in the Lord, till I die.
I will trust in the Lord,
I will trust in the Lord,
I will trust in the Lord, till I die.

2 I'm gonna treat everybody right,
I'm gonna treat everybody right,
I'm gonna treat everybody right, till I die.
I'm gonna treat everybody right,
I'm gonna treat everybody right,
I'm gonna treat everybody right, till I die.

INVOCATION

Holy Love, bear in us a new beginning. Soften our hearts and still our minds into Your gracious embrace. Hold the worries and wanderings of our lives. Gift us with the renewing energy of Your Holy Spirit. Let it meet our fatigue and form in us a deepened commitment to your vision of the beloved community. Yes, mold us with Christ-love into agents of Your blessing, for the good of the world. May the cup of our lives run over with this of Your desire. In Your Holy name, we pray. Amen.

ANTHEM “Go In the Wilderness with Come Out de Wilderness” Choir

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Readings

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Luke 6:27-38

SERMON Rev. Rachelle Eaton

*HYMN “We Are Often Tossed and Driven” NCH #444

**1 We are tossed and driven
on the restless sea of time,
Somber skies and howling tempests
oft succeed a bright sunshine;
In that land of perfect day,
when the mists have rolled away,
We will understand it better by and by.**

Refrain:

**By and by, when the morning comes,
when the saints of God are gathered home,
We'll tell the story how we've overcome:
for we'll understand it better by and by.**

**2 We are often destitute
of the things that life demands,
Want of food and want of shelter,
thirsty hills and barren lands;
In our God our trust's assured,
and according to the Word,
We will understand it better by and by. [Refrain]**

**3 Trials dark on every hand,
and we cannot understand**

**All the ways that God would lead us
to that blessed promised land;
We are guided by God's eye,
and we'll follow till we die,
For we'll understand it better by and by. [Refrain]**

**4 Temptations, hidden snares
often take us unawares,
And our hearts are made to bleed
for many a thoughtless word or deed,
And we wonder why the test,
when we try to do our best**

MORNING PRAYERS

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer followed by 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 Hymn #658 Restless Weaver (Verse 4)

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

***RESPONSE: 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.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

Generous God, thank you for pressing Your holy love into our lives. Bless these gifts we bring that they may be multiplied into a good larger than we can imagine. Also,

bless us, that we might live our lives in gratitude, sharing freely without expectation of return. Through this way of Jesus, stretch our hearts, minds, and lives into channels of Your Holy grace. Amen.

***HYMN** **“Lift Every Voice and Sing”** **NCH #593**

**1 Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the harsh past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.**

**2 Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
come to the place for which our people sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.**

**3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
God who has brought us thus far on the way;
God, who by your might, led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met you,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, forget you;
Shadowed beneath your hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.**

***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.

***BENEDICTION**

***SUNG RESPONSE “Lilies of the Field Amen”**

POSTLUDE

UP-COMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Today – 11:15 am - Gathering to develop Communication Covenant

Wednesday, February 26 – 2:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, February 27 – 6:00 pm – AA Beginner’s Step Meeting
7:00 pm - Zoom session for developing Communication
Covenant, see newsletter for link**

Friday, February 28 - 6:30 pm – Community Movie Night

Sunday, March 2 - 10:00 am – Worship with Communion

Wednesday, March 5 6:00 pm – Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday, March 23 10:00 am - we will welcome guest speakers Gilles Bissonette, Legal Director, and Kat Legier, senior organizer, from the ACLU NH to discuss their vital work protecting civil liberties.

Please check our website for updates on meetings and events.
www.wilmotucc.org

Ministers	Members and Friends of the Congregation
Pastor	Rev. Rachele Eaton
Music Director	Donna Reade
Moderator	Open Position
Clerk	Bob Evans
Christian Education Director	Nancy Allenby
Deacon of the Month	Bethany Balford
Secretary	Mary Heath
Pastor's cell: 603-513-3276	rachele@wilmotucc.org
Pastor's Working Days	Tuesday on site, Thursday, Friday, Sunday morning
Church Office Hours	Monday 9-2, Friday 9-12

Attributions

Liturgical Attributions:

A Good Measure: Service Prayers for the Seventh Sunday after Epiphany Year C was written by the Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, Conference Minister of the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Music Attributions

"Go in the Wilderness with Come Out de Wilderness". Arrangement by Donna Mae Reade, ©2025 Donna Mae Reade. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

"I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray". Arrangement by Carl Haywood, © 1992, Carl Haywood from *The Haywood Collection of Negro Spirituals*.

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me". Arrangement by Mary McDonald, © 2010 Lorenz Publishing Co. All rights reserved.

"I Will Trust in the Lord". Arrangement by Jeffrey Radford, © 1993 The Pilgrim Press. All rights reserved.

"Is There Any Room in Your Heart for Jesus?". Words and Music by Wyatt Tee Walker, © Wyatt Tee Walker, Administered by GIA Publications, Inc. Arrangement by Valeria A. Foster, © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

"Jesu Tawa Pano (Jesus, We Are Here)". Words and Music by Patrick Matsikenyiri, © 1990, Patrick Matsikenyiri. All rights reserved.

"Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land". Arrangement by Wyatt Tee Walker, © Wyatt Tee Walker; administered by GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

"Lilies of the Field Amen". Harmonization: © 1990 Westminster John Knox Press. All rights reserved.

"Lord, I Know I've Been Changed". Arrangement by Larry Shackley, ©2010 Lorenz Publishing Corporation. All rights reserved.

"Plenty Good Room". Arrangement by Lloyd Larson, ©2010 Lorenz Publishing Corporation. 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.

"This Little Light of Mine". Arrangement by Mark Hayes, ©2011 Lorenz Publishing Corporation. All rights reserved.

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

Address: 19 N. Wilmot Road, Wilmot 03287 Phone: 603-526-7715

Mailing address: P.O. Box 204, Wilmot, NH 03287