

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, March 30, 2025

Minister: Rev. Rachelle Eaton Music Director: Donna Reade

MORNING WORSHIP - March 30, 2025

Our worship service is taking place on N'dakinna, the traditional ancestral homeland of the Abenaki, Penacook and Wahanaki 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.

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Have you come far to be here today?

Many: You enlarge our gathering: welcome! One: Have you come from around the corner? Many: You anchor our gathering: welcome!

One: Do you seek sanctuary? Do you seek inspiration?

Many: May this worship meet you.

One: Do you come with purpose? Do you come with questions?

Many: We welcome you as you are! All: Let us worship God together!

*HYMN "Amazing Grace" NCH 547

1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come; "Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
- 4 My God has promised good to me, whose word my hope secures; God will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.
- 5 When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

OPENING PRAYER

God of patient love, you await the return of the wayward and wandering and eagerly embrace them in pardon.
Through baptism you have clothed us with the glory of Christ and restored our inheritance:
give us generous hearts
to welcome all who seek a place
at the table of your unconditional love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANTHEM "Shepherd, Do You Tramp the Hills" Choir

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Readings 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

SERMON Rev. Rachelle Eaton

*HYMN "You Are Salt for the Earth, O People" NCH 181

1 You are salt for the earth, O people; salt for the reign of God! Share the flavor of life, O people; life in the City of God!

REFRAIN

Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace; Bring for the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!

- 2 You are a light on the hill, O people; light for the City of God! Shine so holy and bright, O people; shine for the City of God! [REFRAIN]
- 3 You are a seed of the Word, O people; bring forth the reign of God! Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, grow in the City of God! [REFRAIN]
- 4 We are a blessed and a pilgrim people; bound for the reign of God! Love our journey and love our homeland; love is the City of God! [REFRAIN]

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

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

OFFERTORY

*RESPONSE: DOXOLOGY

(tune of "Old Hundredth"; Lenten Words)

The glory of these forty days, we celebrate with songs of praise, For Christ, by whom all things were made, himself has fasted and has prayed. Amen

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION and BLESSING OF BLANKETS

*HYMN

"This Little Light of Mine"

NCH 524

1 This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine;
this little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2 Everywhere I go,
I'm gonna let it shine;
everywhere I go,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go,
I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine,

3 All through the night,
I'm gonna let it shine;
all through the night,
I'm gonna let it shine.
All through the night,
I'm gonna let it shine;
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

*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

Spirt of the living God, fall afresh on me. (sing 2x) Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

POSTLUDE

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UP-COMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Wednesday, April 2 2:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 3 – 6:00 pm – AA Beginner's Step Meeting

7:00 pm - Zoom Lenten Book Study –

Sunday, April 6 - Easter Flowering Plant Orders and donations to One Common Man for

Ukraine deadline

10:00 am Worship with Communion

10:00 am - Sunday School meets at the church

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Sunday, April 13 10:00 am – Palm Sunday Service in person and on Zoom

Thursday, April 17 5:00 pm Maundy Thursday Soup and Bread Supper with communion

6:00 pm Tenebrae Service in person and on zoom

Easter Sunday, April 20 6:00 am – Sunrise Service at Slope N Shore Beach on Pleasant Lake (In

Person)

10:00 am – Easter Worship Service - In person and on Zoom

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

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Call to Worship from Squandered: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday in Lent was written by the Rev. Ruth Garwood, a transitional pastor in the Heartland Conference, a certified facilitator of Sacred Conversations to End Racism, and a certified InterPlay leader.

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

Address: 19 N. Wilmot Road, Wilmot 03287 Phone: 603-526-7715 Mailing address: P.O. Box 204, Wilmot, NH 0328