



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 May 18, 2025

Rev. Rachelle Eaton, Minister
Donna Reade, Music Director

MORNING WORSHIP - May 18, 2025

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.

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

(Psalm 148)

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

*HYMN

“Now the Green Blade Rises”

Chalice #230

1 Now the green blade rises, from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

2 In the grave they laid the love by hatred slain,
thinking that Jesus would not wake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

3 Christ came forth at Easter, like the risen grain,
who that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, the risen Christ is seen:
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

4 When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

INVOCATION

Alpha and Omega, First and Last,
glory outshining all the lights of heaven:
pour out upon us your Spirit
of faithful love and abundant compassion,
so that we may rejoice in the splendor of your works
while we wait in expectation
for the new heaven and the new earth you promise
when Christ shall come again. Amen.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Readings

Acts 11:1-18

John 13:31-35

SERMON

Rev. Rachelle Eaton

*HYMN

“They’ll Know We are Christians”

Chalice #494

**1 We are one in the Spirit, We are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit, We are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity might one day be restored.**

REFRAIN

**And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.**

**2 We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
And together we’ll spread the news that God is in our land. [REFRAIN]**

**3 We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
And we’ll guard each one’s dignity and save each one’s pride [REFRAIN]**

**4 All praise to the Father, From whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one. [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

“Restless Weaver”

Chalice #658 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

OFFERTORY

***RESPONSE: DOXOLOGY** *Easter Season Doxology* *Chalice #50*

Praise God, from whom all blessing flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

***HYMN** *"In Christ There Is No East or West"* *Chalice #687*

1 In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one community of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

2 In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord,
close binding humankind.

3 Join hands, disciples of the faith,
whate'er your race may be;
all children of the living God
are surely kin to me.

4 In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north:
all loving hearts are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

*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** *"Peace I Leave with You, My Friends"* *NCH 249*

REFRAIN

Peace I leave with you, my friends,
shalom, my peace, in all you do.
Peace I leave with you, my friends.
I give to you so you can give to others, too.

3 With this love now all will know
the loneliness is at end,
Rejoice my friends, although I go,
for I will come again.
[REFRAIN]

POSTLUDE

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UP-COMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Tuesday, May 20	9:30 am – Music Committee 11:30 am – Justice and Witness
Wednesday, May 21	3:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, May 22	6:00 pm – AA Beginner's Step Meeting
Sunday, May 25	10:00 am – Worship 10:00 am – Sunday School Spring Hike 11:15 am – Coffee Hour

Looking Ahead

June 8th - Communication Covenant Sunday

June 12th – Religious Ed Field Trip - Juneteenth Author Event at Currier Museum, Manchester NH

June 15th - Children's Day

June 20th - Chicken BBQ

June 22nd – Juneteenth Celebration

June 28th - Frederick Douglass reading at Potter Place

July 26th - Bandstand Supper

Please check our website for updates on meetings and events.

www.wilmotucc.org

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Ministers: Members and Friends
of the Congregation
Pastor: Rev. Rachelle Eaton
Music Director: Donna Reade
Moderator: Open Position,
Bob Evans Acting Moderator

Clerk: Bob Evans
Christian Ed Director: Nancy Allenby
Deacon of the Month: Marie MacDonald
Secretary: Mary Heath

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