



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!*

Worship Service

April 19, 2026

Rev. Rachelle Eaton, Minister
Joe Henderson, Guest Pianist

MORNING WORSHIP April 19, 2026
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

Inspired by Psalm 40: 1-11

O God, you call us by name to come,
and we hear with delight and gladness.

**In joyful responsiveness,
we come to worship our God.**

Rising out of the depths of despair,
we gratefully gather for worship.

**In joyful hope,
we come to worship our loving God.**

Our God has given us a new song
of praise to sing to our Awesome God!

**In joyful trust,
we come to worship our God. Amen.**

INVOCATION

**This is the day that you have made, life-giving God.
Joining with angels and archangels
and with the chorus that is rising throughout all the earth,
we will rejoice and be glad this day.**

**You take our endings
and you make your new beginnings.**

**Your surprise and astound us
in places where we expected
that you were absent.**

You challenge us to reconsider what is possible.

**Living Lord,
Saviour Christ,
we praise you,
for you are raised by the power of God
and there is a new creation
and, by your grace,
we are in it!
Alleluia! Amen.**

*HYMN

“In the Bulb There is a Flower”

Chalice #638

Verse 1

In the bulb there is a flower
In the seed an apple tree
In cocoons a hidden promise
Butterflies will soon be free
In the cold and snow of winter
There's a spring that waits to be
Unrevealed until its season
Something God alone can see

Verse 2

There's a song in every silence
Seeking word and melody
There's a dawn in every darkness
Bringing hope to you and me

From the past will come the future
What it holds a mystery
Unrevealed until its season
Something God alone can see

Verse 3

In our end is our beginning
In our time infinity
In our doubt there is believing
In our life eternity
In our death a resurrection
At the last a victory
Unrevealed until its season
Something God alone can see

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Readings

Acts 9:1-19a

Reflection

*HYMN

“The Gift of Love ”

Chalice #526

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
And have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love; my words are vain,
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
And striving so my love profess,
But not be giv'n by love within,
The profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, spirit come, our hearts control.
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love, guide ev'ry deed.
By this we worship, we are freed.

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

***Doxology** **“From All That Dwell Below the Skies”** *Chalice #49*

From all that dwell below the skies,
Let the Creator’s praise arise;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer’s name be sung,
Through ev’ry land by ev’ry tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

***HYMN** **“O Savior, Let Me Walk with You”** **NCH #503**

1. O Master, let me walk with thee
In lowly paths of service true;
Tell me your secret; help me to bear
The strain of toil, the fret of care.

3. Teach me thy patience; let me be
In closer, dearer company,
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
In trust that triumphs over wrong:

2. Help me the slow of heart to move
By some clear, winning word of love;
Teach me the wayward feet to stay,
And guide them in the homeward way.

4. In hope that sends a shining ray
Far down the future's broadening way;
In peace that only you can give,
With thee, O Savior, let me live.

*CLOSING CIRCLE AND 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.

***SUNG RESPONSE** **“Alleluia”** **Chalice #106**

Alleluia alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Tuesday, April 21 **1:00 pm** – Growth and Outreach
Thursday, April 23 **6:00 pm** AA's Beginner's Step Meeting
 7:00 pm – “Why UCC” Discussion Group

WHY UCC CLASS SESSIONS

All sessions held at 7:00 pm on Zoom
4/16 The United Church of Christ: “Our faith is 2,000 years old. Our thinking is not.” (*Held last Thursday*)
4/23 The Statement of Faith: A Testimony, Not A Test
5/14 A Church of Firsts: A Historic and Ongoing Commitment to Joining Faith and Action
5/21 The Local Church: Membership, Organization, Freedoms, and Responsibilities

LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday, April 30

AED/CPR Training

First Congregational Church Staff and Officers

Ministers: Members and Friends
of the Congregation

Pastor: Rev. Rachele Eaton

Moderator: Bob Evans

Clerk: Open Position

Religious Ed Director: Nancy Allenby

Secretary: Mary Heath

Deacon of the Month: Marie MacDonald

Liturgical Attributions:

Call to Worship written by Joan Stott, and posted on The Timeless

Psalms. http://www.thetimelesspsalms.net/w_resources/epiphany2a_2011.htm

Invocation written by Christine Jerrett, and posted on Christine Jerrett: Reflections on being the Church in God's new creation.

<http://christinejerrett.wordpress.com/tag/prayer/>

Music Attributions

"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.

"In the Bulb There is a Flower". Words and Music by Natalie Sleeth, © 1986 by Hope Publishing Co.. All rights reserved.

"The Gift of Love". Words and Music by Hal H. Hopson, 1972 by Hope Publishing Co. All rights reserved.

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

Used with Permission. CCLI Church Copyright License Number: 22643989 and Streaming License Number 22643972.