



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

May 3, 2026

Rev. Rob Grabill, Guest Minister

MORNING WORSHIP May 3, 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

We walk in wonder beneath the sun and stars
Creation is God's masterpiece and we are blessed to share it.
We give thanks for the air, the land, and the water
and for all the creatures joined together in the web of life
Beauty is before us, around us, over us and beneath us
We join our hearts, minds, and spirits as one in thanks and awe.

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious Creator, we ask for your grace and wisdom to face difficult challenges ahead. Our actions have led us to a time when we need to rethink our living to protect and restore our earthly home. Open our minds and hearts to what you will teach us. Help us to act in wisdom and fairness in stewardship of our Earthly home. Through our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God, you formed us of the dust of a precious blue marble floating through unfathomable space. We are made from the dust of this holy orb, and to its dust we shall return. Yet we act like we are not of its dust, but are somehow outside of and above this planet we are so deeply connected to. Forgive us, Earth, for forgetting who we are. Forgive us our abuses of the prairie grass and the tree, the whale and the wolf. Forgive us for clear-cutting your forests, for tearing down your mountains, for polluting you to extract fossil fuels and precious metals. Forgive us for dumping our waste into your waters and for changing your climate for our convenience. Teach us respect, merciful one, until we learn to live gently with creation, to stop demanding from it what we want, but to accept only what it offers, and do so with deep gratitude for your abundance of life and your stewardship of us. Amen.

*HYMN

"For the Beauty of the Earth "

NCH # 28

**For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude,

Offertory Prayer

With grateful hearts for all we have received, we offer these gifts, O God, to give tangible expression to our desire to join you in expressing our three great loves – love of children, love of neighbor, love of creation. We offer them and ask you to bless them with the Spirit of Christ who showed us how to care as you care. Amen.

*COMMUNION HYMN “Let Us Break Bread Together” Chalice #425

Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees)
Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees)
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees)
Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees)
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees)
Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees)
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

COMMUNION

Communion Prayer

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: Eternal God, who has created the heavens and the earth, giving breath to every living thing, we thank you for all the gifts of creation and for the gift of life itself. We thank you for making us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, the only one eternally begotten by you who was born of your servant Mary and shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, in your beloved community of your church, we await Christ's return at the end of history. We take courage from the abiding presence of your Holy Spirit in our midst. We offer you our praise for women and men of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. With all the prophets, martyrs, and saints, and all the company of heaven we glorify you:

Many: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

One: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: “This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same ways, Jesus took the cup, after supper, saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Many: Amen. Come, Christ Jesus!

One: Gracious God, we ask you to bless this bread and cup and all of us with the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, the church, your servant people, that we may be salt and light, and leaven for the furtherance of your will in all the world.

Many: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit!

SHARING BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, you have given us much this day: the wheat and grapes which found our feast, the wit and will to transform them into bread and wine, and the precious presence of your Son who transfigures and redeems all that we have broken and lost. Send us out now to care for this fragile earth, our island home. Grant us the wit and will to transform the toxic, irreverent ways we live, and the saving presence of your Son Jesus Christ who goes before us and calls us into this world you love. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

*HYMN

“In the Bulb There is a Flower”

NCH # 433

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.

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.

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.

*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

One: Christ calls us to be his disciples, to serve him with love and compassion, to serve Earth and the peoples of Earth. Will you care for creation?

All: **With Christ, we will celebrate and revere all life! With Christ, we will care for creation! With Christ, we will help heal our Earthly home!**

POSTLUDE

EVENTS AND MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Tuesday, May 5

3:00 pm – Deacons Meeting

Thursday, May 7

11:30 am – Wilmot Ladies Aid

6:00 pm AA's Beginner's Step Meeting

LOOKING AHEAD

“Why UCC” Series on Zoom - May 14, 7 pm - The Local Church: Membership, Organization, Freedoms, and Responsibilities and on May 21, 7 pm - A Church of Firsts: A Historic and Ongoing Commitment to Joining Faith and Action

First Congregational Church Staff and Officers

Ministers: Members and Friends
of the Congregation

Pastor: Rev. Rachelle Eaton

Moderator: Bob Evans

Clerk: Open Position

Religious Ed Director: Nancy Allenby

Secretary: Mary Heath

Deacon of the Month: Bethany Balford

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