



**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 with Communion
Juneteenth Observation***

June 7, 2026

Rev. Rachele Eaton, Minister
Elaine Cox, Music Director

MORNING WORSHIP June 7, 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

Hear, O people of God, and declare that the Lord is our God.

Our Lord is indeed God, the One who is Creator of heaven and earth and all who dwell in it.

We gather in response and gratitude to God's invitation and love for us.

We've come to worship the God who created all humanity in God's image and likeness, equal in dignity and worthy of regard and care.

Let us worship our great God together.

To the God of justice, love, and peace we lift up our hearts and minds and voices.

For even in the midst of injustice and oppression, this is still the day that the Lord has made.

And we shall rejoice and be glad in it.

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

INVOCATION

Almighty God, you rescued your people from slavery in Egypt, and throughout the ages you have never failed to hear the cries of the oppressed. We remember before you our sisters and brothers in Galveston, Texas who on June 19th in 1865 received the glad tidings of their emancipation. Forgive us for the many grave sins that delayed that liberating word. Anoint us with your Spirit to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

CONFESSION

Almighty God, Source of all that is,

Giver of every good gift:

**You create all people in your image
and call us to love one another as you love us.**

**We confess that we have failed to honor you
in the great diversity of the human family.**

**We have desired to live in freedom,
while building walls between ourselves and others.**

**We have longed to be known and accepted for who we are,
while making judgements of others based on the color of skin,
or the shape of features, or the varieties of human experience.**

**We have tried to love our neighbors individually
while yet benefitting from systems that hold**

those same neighbors in oppression.
Forgive us, Holy God.
Give us eyes to see you as you are revealed in all people.
Strengthen us for the work of reconciliation rooted in love.
Restore us in your image, to be beloved community,
united in our diversity,
even as you are one with Christ and the Spirit,
Holy and undivided Trinity, now and forever.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*HYMN

“Go Down, Moses”

Chalice #663

1 When Israel was in Egypt’s Land:
let my people go,
oppressed so hard they could not stand,
let my people go.

3 The Lord told Moses what to do,
let my people go,
to lead the Hebrew children through,
let my people go. [Refrain]

Refrain:
Go down, Moses,
way down in Egypt’s land.
Tell old Pharaoh
to let my people go.

4 Then Miriam danced and sang her song,
let my people go;
"Our God has triumphed over wrong!"
let my people go. (Refrain)

2 No more shall they in bondage toil,
let my people go,
let them come out with Egypt's spoil,
let my people go. [Refrain]

5 O let us all from bondage flee,
let my people go,
and let us all in Christ be free,
let my people go. [Refrain]

MOMENT FOR MISSION JUNETEENTH

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Readings

Genesis 21:8-21; Galatians 3:27-28

Sermon

Rev. Rachele Eaton

AFFIRMING OUR RACIAL JUSTICE COVENANT

*...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?
(Micah 6:8)*

All humankind is created in God’s image, and each of us is a beloved child of God. The presence of inequality and racism embedded in our systems harms God’s creation. As followers of Jesus, we are called to confront and heal the racial injustices that separate humanity from God’s will and God’s kingdom.

We, the First Congregational Church of Wilmot, UCC commit to: walking humbly in a continuous journey of learning about past and present racism and inequality; challenging race-based injustice to change cycles of oppression; becoming allies with Black, Indigenous and all People of Color; and reaching out to collaborate with local and distant community partners.

We covenant to allow our deep sorrow about the evil of racism to sustain our passion to work toward justice and equality for all God's people.

*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.

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**

NCH #778

Praise God, from whom all blessing 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

***COMMUNION HYMN “Let Us Break Bread Together”**

Chalice #425

1 Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees)

[Refrain:]

When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us drink wine together on our knees. (on our knees) [Refrain]

3 Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us praise God together on our knees. (on our knees) [Refrain]

See Communion Insert

***HYMN “We Shall Overcome”**

Chalice # 630

1 We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
we shall overcome someday!
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
we shall overcome someday!

2 The Lord will see us through
3 We'll walk hand in hand.
4 We are not afraid (today)
5 The truth shall make us free.
6 We shall live in peace

***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 “Spirit of the Living God”**

Chalice #259

Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVENTS AND MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Tuesday, June 9 1:00 pm – Church Council
Thursday, June 11 6:00 pm AA's Beginner's Step Meeting
Saturday, June 13 11:00 am – Tom Trent's Memorial Service
Sunday, June 14 **Children's Sunday**
 10:00 am – Worship

LOOKING AHEAD

Children's Sunday
Celebrating Our Youth on
Sunday, June 14th

The students will share about their
Sunday School year

Each student will offer a solo
musical number

We will honor each of them with a
donation in their name to a cause
related to their interests, as well as
a perennial to take home and
plant

We will recognize Jakeb Lizotte's
high school graduation

There will be a special coffee hour
after the service

First Congregational Church Wilmot
19 N. Wilmot Road, Wilmot, NH

BBQ 

*Chicken
Dinner*

\$20 cash/check

**Friday,
June 19, 2026**

*½ chicken, potato salad,
baked beans and
homemade brownies*

5 to 7pm
Eat In or
Limited Takeout

NO RESERVATIONS
Serving until chicken runs out
Questions? Call 603-526-7715

June 21 - Pride Sunday Guest Speaker
Blankets and Tools Collection Ends

First Congregational Church Staff and Officers

Ministers: Members and Friends of the Congregation

Pastor: Rev. Rachele Eaton

Moderator: Bob Evans

Clerk: Open Position

Director of Music – Elaine Cox

Deacon of the Month: Michiko Yamaguchi

Religious Ed Director: Nancy Allenby

Secretary: Mary Heath

Attributions

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Call to Worship by Lisa M. Weaver, <https://worship.calvin.edu/resources/articles/juneteenth-worship-and-prayer-resources>

Invocation and Confession from “Juneteenth Liturgy,” Episcopal Formation in the Bay area, <https://faithinformed.org/resources/juneteenth-liturgy>

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