



First Congregational Church Wilmot

**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 August 23, 2026

Rev. Rachelle Eaton, Minister
Elaine Cox, Music Director

MORNING WORSHIP August 23, 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

How long, O people?

How long will we use our power to dominate God's creation instead of to serve?

How long, O people?

How long will we trespass the earth's limits, taking more than our share?

How long, O people?

How long will we dispossess the poor from their land and homes?

Today we come to grieve all that has been lost and broken because of human action and inaction.

Today may our lament turn our hollowed-out spaces into openings for something new.

INVOCATION

How long, O Lord? How long will you allow the powerful to go unchecked, those who accumulate the wealth of creation that belongs to all, those who pollute for profit and exhaust the earth's resources? How long will people suffer and whole species go extinct?

The creation groans, waiting for redemption. Have compassion, God; come quickly to help us. Forgive the wrong we have done and the good we have left undone. Come quickly to restrain evil, to seek that which is lost, and heal that which is broken. Then we will give thanks for your salvation, and praise your name from generation to generation.

*HYMN

"Wait for the Lord"

Taize 12

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!
(sung 6 times)

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Readings Psalm 13, Psalm 94:3-6; Psalm 79:1-3, 5, 8-9, 13; Matthew 6:1-6

Reflection and Ritual of Lament

Rev. Rachelle Eaton

*HYMN

"Lament for the Earth"

Insert

**1. The garden of the world, the paradise we share,
The greening of all life is dying in our care,
The covenants we made are rendered null and void,
The garden that is God's, dishonored and destroyed.**

**2. New prophets tell the signs of fire, flood and storm,
Now all creation groans as nature changes form,**

And yet we will not change, though ice floes melt away,
Though creatures lose their homes in desolation's day.

3. The poor and the displaced must struggle more than all
When hope and harvests fail, when drought has taken toll,
When air is poisoned breath, when water does not flow,
Earth's children bear the cost, earth's planting cannot grow.

4. The callous face of greed, the trading of the powers
Will fuel and will feed a lifestyle such as ours.
We pray for one more chance to tend to earth's repair!
The greening of all life is dying in our care.

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 2

Where earth's fragile web is raveling help us mend each broken strand.
Bless our urgent, bold endeavors cleansing water, air, and land.
Through the Spirit's inspiration ~offering health where once was pain ~
Strengthen us to be the stewards of your world knit whole again.

THE GIVING OF OUR GIFTS –

EXCHANGING PRAYER PARTNERSHIP CARDS

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

*HYMN

"O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

Taize 20

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer.
When I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me.

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise:
All my hope comes from God.

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise:
God, the wellspring of life.

*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

“Live in Charity”

Chalice #523

Live in charity and steadfast love,
Live in charity; God will dwell with you.

(Repeat 3 times)

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Rally Day

Rally Day Picnic

Sunday, September 13
after worship at Lucy Mueller's
house on Lake Sunapee
(10 Birch Point Rd., Sunapee)

Hot dogs, hamburgers and soft
drinks will be provided.

Bring an appetizer, side dish,
salad or dessert if you wish.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVENTS AND MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Tuesday, August 25 1:00 pm – Church Council Planning Meeting
Thursday, August 27 6:00 pm – AA Beginners
Friday Aug. 28 – Sept. 7 Mary Heath on Vacation
Sunday, September 13 Rally Day Picnic

First Congregational Church Staff and Officers

Ministers: Members and Friends of the Congregation

Settled Minister: Rev. Rachelle Eaton

Moderator: Bob Evans

Clerk: Open Position

Director of Music: Elaine Cox

Deacon of the Month: Marie MacDonald

Religious Ed Director: Nancy Allenby

Secretary: Mary Heath

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Rev. Rachelle Eaton, Settled Pastor

Wilmotucc.org 19 North Wilmot Rd., Wilmot, NH 603-526-7715