



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 September 20, 2026

Rev. Rob Grabill, Guest Minister
Elaine Cox, Music Director

MORNING WORSHIP September 20, 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 27)

Where can we go from your spirit, O God? Where can we flee from your presence?

If we ascend to heaven, you are there; if we settle in the furthest wilderness, you are there also.

In the dry outback and the barren desert, God provides bread from heaven and living water.

Let us worship the Creator who sustains the wild earth and all who dwell within it!

OPENING PRAYER

God of the wilderness, your Spirit drove Jesus into the wild outback to be among the creatures of the earth. We confess that we often fear the wild, seeking to dominate what we do not understand. Open our hearts today to hear the voice of the wilderness crying out. Teach us to respect the untamed spaces of your creation, and immerse us in your living water so that we may protect the vulnerable ecosystems of our world. Through Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God, we confess that we have drawn lines across your land, exploited the outback, and neglected the delicate balance of the wilderness. We have consumed resources greedily and ignored the groaning of creation. Forgive us.

*HYMN

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

Chalice #22

**1 All creatures of our God and King
lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**O burning sun with golden beam,
O silver moon with softer gleam:**

Refrain

**O praise God, O praise God,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**2 O rushing wind with voice so strong,
you clouds that sail in heav'n along,
O praise God, Alleluia!
O rising morn, in praise rejoice,**

you lights of evening find a voice:

**3 O flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for your God to hear,
Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**O blazing fire who lights the night,
providing warmth, enhancing sight,**

**4 And all forgiven tender hearts,
forgiving others, take your part,
sing praises, alleluia!
You who long pain and sorrow bear,
praise God, who knows your ev'ry care.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Readings: Exodus 16:2-15 and Job 39: 1-12

Reflection

“Grace in the Wilderness”

Rev. Rob Grabill

***HYMN**

“Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer”

NCH # 18

1 Guide me, O my great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your powerful hand.
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.

3 When I reach the river Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction, rent;
land me safe on heaven's side.
songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.

2 Open now the crystal fountain,
where the healing waters flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
Ever be my strength and shield;
Ever be my strength and shield.

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.

CALL FOR OFFERING

Before we are asked to give anything, we must first acknowledge that we are first and foremost receivers. This is especially true as we ponder God's good and marvelous Creation. God invites us to claim our birthright and adoption as God's partners in healing our Earthly home.

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

“Touch the Earth Lightly”

NCH #569

1 Touch the earth lightly,
use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder,
ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

2 We who endanger,
who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster
clouds of disaster —
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

3 Let there be greening,
birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden,
hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

4 God of all living,
God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us,
Christ reconnect us,
using us gently, and making us one.

*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 “Shall We Gather at the River” (Refrain)Chalice #701

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVENTS AND MEETINGS THIS WEEK

We extend our gratitude to Rev. Rob Grabill for leading us in worship today. Rachelle will be back in the office this Tuesday, the 22nd.

Tuesday, Sept. 22	1:00 pm – Justice and Witness
Thursday, Sept. 24	6:00 pm – AA Men's Beginners
Sunday, Sept. 27	Outdoor Service for Season of Creation
Sunday, Oct. 4	CROP Walk

Appreciative Inquiry Congregational Conversations:

- Tuesday, September 22, 3 pm at the church
- Thursday, September 24, 7 pm on Zoom
- Sunday, September 27, 12 noon at church

Please sign up for the date you will participate on the clipboards downstairs or by emailing Rachelle at rachelle@wilmotucc.org

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: September: Bethany Balford

Religious Ed Director: Nancy Allenby

Secretary: Mary Heath

Attributions

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