



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 Feast of Creation September 6, 2026

Rev. Rachelle Eaton, Minister
Elaine Cox, Music Director

MORNING WORSHIP September 6, 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

In the beginning, the Spirit of God hovered over the waters.

And God called them good.

Come, Holy Spirit, and cleanse the waters.

The prophet saw a river flowing from the Temple,
and wherever the river flowed, everything lived.

Come, Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.

Jesus cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me.

Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water."

Come, Holy Spirit, and heal your people.

INVOCATION

Almighty and ever living God, we thank you for your love in all creation, and especially for your gift of water to sustain and cleanse all life. Christ is the living water, cleansing, refreshing, and making all things new. So now we offer our thanks for the waters that bring beauty to all that we enjoy, the wild places, the bush, the mountains, coast and the sea. We give thanks and praise for all good lands, for the trees and pastures, for our plentiful crops, and for the living water that quenches them.

We praise you for giving us life through water, and for all waters everywhere. We especially praise you for the waters who sustain us in this part of our common home.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and placed us in a well-watered garden. In the desert, you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave your people water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you washed us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life. Bathe us today in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy all who thirst, and give us the life only you can give.

*HYMN "Shall We Gather at the River" (Verses 1-3) Chalice #701

1 Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever
flowing by the throne of God?

[Refrain:]

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.

**2 On the margin of the river,
washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever,
all the happy golden day. [Refrain]**

**3 Ere we reach the shining river,
lay we every burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver,
and provide a robe and crown. [Refrain]**

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Readings: Genesis 1:1-2, 6-10, 20-22, 31; Ezekiel 47:9, 12; Philippians 4:8-9

Reflection

Rev. Rachelle Eaton

***HYMN**

Chalice #86

1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (Refrain)

**3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (Refrain)**

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 “When We Eat Bread, We Eat the Soil and Sun ” Insert

1. When we eat bread, we eat the soil and sun,
The quiet winter rest, the surge of spring;
We eat the summer heat, the clouds and rain,
And every breeze that makes the meadows sing.

2. When we drink wine, we drink the soil and sun,
We drink the tendril's curl, the pruning grief;
The green, the deepest purple, and the pale,
The swelling cluster and the shady leaf.

3. When we receive Communion's wine and bread,
The Earth enfolds us as her very own;
We eat and drink the Life that gives us life;
To every sense Love makes its presence known.

4. Now as we eat the sun and drink the rain,
And praise you, God, for Earth and all her care,
Let thanks and reverence ripen in the hands
We lend to her protection and repair.

See Communion Insert

*HYMN

“Crashing Waters at Creation”

NCH #326

1. Crashing waters at creation
Ordered by the Spirit's breath,
First to witness day's beginning
From the brightness of night's death.

2. Parting water stood and trembled
As the captives passed on through,
Washing off the chains of bondage ~~
Channel to a life made new.

3. Cleansing water once at Jordan
Closed around the One foretold,
Opened to reveal the glory
Ever new and ever old.

4. Living water, never ending,
Quench the thirst and flood the soul.
Wellspring, Source of life eternal,
Drench our dryness, make us whole.

***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

Thursday, September	6:00 pm – AA Beginners
Sunday, September 13	10:00 am – Worship
	12:00 pm - Rally Day Picnic

Rev. Rachelle Eaton will be on study leave September 14 through 20. Rev. Rob Grabill will fill the pulpit on the 20th.

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.



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

Call to Worship, Invocation, and Communion Prayer from Season of Creation Celebration Guide 2026, released by the Ecumenical Season of Creation Steering Committee.

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