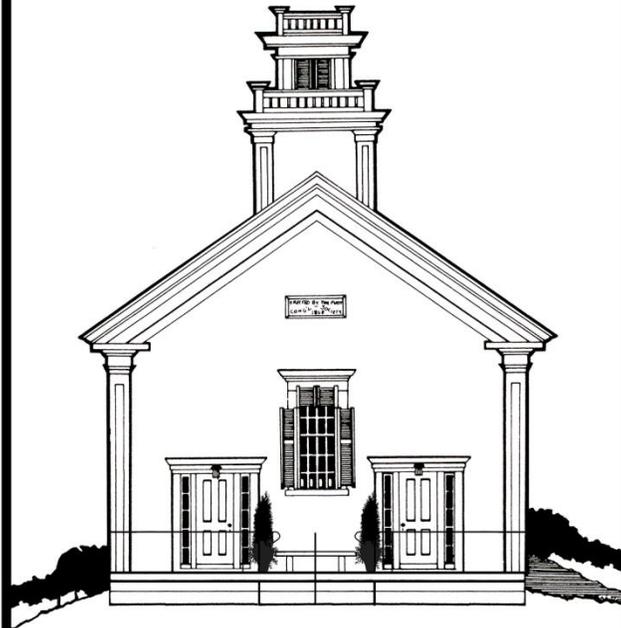


# Church *on the* Rise



**First Congregational Church, UCC  
Wilmot, New Hampshire**

*No matter who you are or where you are on your life's journey, you are welcome in this  
Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ.*

## ***Order of Service for***

***Sunday, February 21, 2021***

***The First Sunday in Lent***

**Minister: Rev. Sara Marean**

**Guest: Rev. Ralph English**

**Music Director: William Ogmundson**

## ORDER of WORSHIP – February 21, 2021

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Introit

A Time of Silence to Center Ourselves

### CALL TO COMMUNITY

One: Blessed be the name of God from this time on and forevermore.

**All: From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of God is to be praised.**

One: It is good to give thanks to God, to sing praised to Your Name, O Most High;

**All: To declare Your steadfast love in the morning and Your faithfulness by night.**

### HYMN “IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE” NCH #1

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes.

Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
not wanting, not wasting, but ruling in might;  
Your justice like mountains high soaring above,  
Your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Your life is life-giving - to both great and small;  
in all life You're living, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves and as flowers,  
then wither and perish - but naught dims Your powers.

So perfect Your glory, so brilliant Your light,  
Your angels adore You, all veiling their sight;  
All praise we would render and Your angels do:  
in awe at the splendor of light hiding You.

### OPENING PRAYER

**O Holy One, You come to us in the wilderness moments of our lives and call us to mission and ministry in Your name. As You named Jesus the Beloved at His baptism, so we seek to follow in His ways and do that which is pleasing in Your sight. In the manner of the Beloved, may we hear and respond such that we are doers of the Word, seeking to bring peace, justice, and reconciliation to all people. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE Psalm 25:1-10 and Mark 1:9-15

MESSAGE

REV. RALPH ENGLISH

HYMN "O SAVIOR, LET ME WALK WITH YOU" NCH #503

O Savior, let me walk with You  
in earthly paths of service true;  
Tell me your secret, help me bear  
the strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move  
by some clear, winning word of love.  
Teach me the wayward feet to stay,  
and guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me Your patience; let me be  
in closer, dearer company,  
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong,  
in trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray  
far down the future's broadening way,  
In peace that only You can give,  
with You, O Savior, let me live.

### 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...)*

**Prayer Response "RESTLESS WEAVER" Chalice Hymnal # 658, stanza 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**

Invitation and Offertory

**Response “We Give Your But Your Own” NCH # 785**

We give You but Your own,  
Whate’er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Yours alone,  
We give it gratefully.

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

With these gifts we proclaim not ourselves but Jesus  
and commit ourselves to follow a way that leads to love and life.  
May our sacrifice be witness to our love for each other  
and the God who loves us all. Amen

## **CLOSING HYMN “WE WOULD BE BUILDING” NCH #607**

We would be building; temples still undone  
O’er crumbling walls their cross scarcely lift,  
Waiting till love can raise the broken stone,  
And hearts creative bridge the human rift.  
We would be building, Architect Divine,  
Reveal the shape of life in Your design.

Teach us to build; upon the solid rock  
We set the dream that hardens into deed,  
Ribbed with fine steel, both time and change to mock,  
Unfailing purpose of our noblest creed.  
Teach us to build; O Maker, lend us sight  
To see the towers gleaming in the light.

O keep us building, Savior; may our hands  
Ne’er falter when the dream is in our hearts,  
When to our ears there come divine commands  
And all the pride of sinful will departs.  
We build with You; O grant enduring worth  
Until Your promised realm shall come on earth.

## **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. Amen.

**BENEDICTION**

**SUNG RESPONSE “SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD”**

**NCH # 283**

**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.**