

ORDER OF WORSHIP
First Sunday Of Advent
November 29, 2020
Second Congregational Church in Wilton,
United Church of Christ

WELCOME to the worship of God at the
Second Congregational Church in Wilton,
United Church of Christ.
We are glad you are here today!

*Bold print means congregational participation.
An asterisk (*) indicates to please stand, if you are able.

GATHERING FOR THE WORD
WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “Largo” J.M. Leclair

LIGHT THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE:

One: O Holy One, we light this first candle,
a candle of grief,
in the midst of the stories of the last year;
Let it burn through these weeks as a beacon to become
The light of Hope.
Let it guide us to your presence in our midst,
Leading us to your Justice and Joy in the service of Peace.

People: God be with us in this Light of Hope.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

After such suffering,
We go searching for a sign, any sign.
The sun seems to dim, the moon fails, the stars fall.
We need a sign, any sign.

People: Be aware, stay awake, change is coming.

We hope that the Human One is on the way,
gathering the faithful from the four winds,
into a place of peace -
We need a sign, any sign.

People: Be aware, stay awake, change is coming.

Nature once offered signs to depend on:
The fig tree put out tender leaves,
and we knew summer was near—
But climate today is hurting, and unpredictable.
We need a sign, any sign.

People: Be aware, stay awake, change is coming.

So together we search for a sign of the One who is coming--
Clarity in confusion
Green shoot in a barren landscape
Song arising in a weary soul.

People: Be aware, stay awake, change is coming

Come, let us worship!

*** HYMN**

Come Away From Rush and Hurry

NO. 655

Come away from rush and hurry to the stillness of God's peace;
From our vain ambition's worry, come to Christ to find release.
Come away from noise and clamor, life's demands and frenzied pace;
Come to join the people gathered here to seek and find God's face.

In the pastures of God's goodness we lie down to rest our soul.
From the waters of God's mercy we drink deeply, are made whole.
At the table of God's presence all the saints are richly fed.
With the oil of God's anointing in to service we are led.

Come, then children, with your burdens - life's confusions, fears and pain.
Leave them at the cross of Jesus; take instead his kingdom's reign.
Bring your thirsts, for he will quench them - he alone will satisfy.
All our longings find attainment when to self we gladly die.

***LIGHTING THE FIRST CANDLE**

***INVOCATION**

Come into our midst, O Holy One,
Rider of the Clouds of Heaven,
Surprising answer to heartfelt prayer.
In whatever way you choose—
Come. Shake us up.
Help us find you at work in our lives
Showing the way to make all things new.
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Psalm 80:1-7 17-19

This has been a year to lament—
Grief and loss,
Crisis when social structures have failed the common good
Complicity when age-old prejudices found new and cruel expression:

People: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

This has been a year to wake up—
To read the "signs of the times"
To wake up to painful truths, and give them voice
To ponder the changes needed for a just world for all:

People: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

This has been a year to call God into our sorry midst—
Show us your face!
Encourage us in the face of brutal realities,
Empower us to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you
On the way in which you make all things new.

People: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Silence

***ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

God is faithful,
and gives us grace in Christ Jesus.
In this fellowship we can count on being enriched
In speech, in knowledge, in every spiritual gift.
Let us give thanks, in Christ, we are forgiven
and sent forth to work for God's reign among us.

GLORIA PATRI Tune: GREATORIX

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM

“Light an Advent Candle”

B.S.Mayo

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Mark13:24-37

SERMON

“What Shape Are You?”

***HYMN**

On Jordan’s Band the Baptist’s Cry

NO. 156

On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry announces
That the Lord is nigh: awake and listen
For he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.
Let every heart be cleansed from sin, make straight the
Way for God within, and so prepare to
Be the home where such a mighty guest may come.
For you are our salvation, Lord, our refuge
and our great reward; without your grace we
Waste away like flowers that wither and decay.
To heal the sick, stretch out your hand, and make the
Fallen sinner stand; shine out, and let your
Light restore earth’s own true loveliness once more.
To you, O Christ, all praises be, whose advent
sets your people free; whom with the Father
We adore and Holy Spirit evermore!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER]

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, 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 trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

VOCAL RESPONSE

“Hear Our Prayer O Lord”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***CALL TO OFFERING**

In struggle and in joy, God is faithful to us.
We bring forth our offerings - our tithes, our treasures, our least coins -
to demonstrate our faithfulness to God.

***ANTHEM**

*There’s a Song in the Air”

R.E. Schema

***DOXOLOGY Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

O Faithful One,
accept these gifts of our hearts and hands.
May they be multiplied and magnified
as the living presence of Christ in the world. Amen

***BENEDICTION**

Send us into the world refreshed in hope,
Awake, alert,
attuned to your presence
ready to join your work of blessing for all.
Amen.

POSTLUDE

“Trumpet Tune”

H. Purcell



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *Deacons Meeting Via Zoom, November 30, 7:00 PM*
- *Search Committee Meeting Via Zoom, December 2, 7:00 PM*
- *Blood Drive at Parish Hall, November 30*

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor Kerry Richardson (Interim Pastor)
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music
Chris Blumm, Vocalist
Kathleen Dube, Liturgist
All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

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Come Away from Rush and Hurry 655

Unison F Bb Bb/C Gm7/C F

1 Come a - way from rush and hur - ry to the still - ness of God's peace;
 2 In the pas - tures of God's good - ness we lie down to rest our soul.
 3 Come, then, chil - dren, with your bur - dens— life's con - fu - sions, fears and pain.

F Bb Bb/C Gm7/C F

from our vain am - bi - tion's wor - ry, come to Christ to find re - lease.
 From the wa - ters of God's mer - cy we drink deep - ly, are made whole.
 Leave them at the cross of Je - sus; take in - stead his king - dom's reign.

Am7 Dm Am7 Dm Am/C Bb2 Bb

Come a - way from noise and clam - or, life's de - mands and fren - zied pace;
 At the ta - ble of God's pres - ence all the saints are rich - ly fed.
 Bring your thirsts, for he will quench them—he a - lone will sat - is - fy.

C7/G F Fmaj7 Bb Bb/C Gm7/C F

come to join the peo - ple gath - ered here to seek and find God's face.
 With the oil of God's a - noint - ing in - to ser - vice we are led.
 All our long - ings find at - tain - ment when to self we glad - ly die.

WORDS: Marva J. Dawn (1948-)
 MUSIC: Attr. B. F. White (1800-1879), *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; arr. Jack Schrader (1942-)

BEACH SPRING
 8.7.8.7.D.

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry 156

ADVENT

D Bm A D $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{D}{A}$ Gmaj7 A D G $\frac{D}{F\#}$ D

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Let ev - ery heart be cleansed from sin, make straight the
 3 For you are our sal - va - tion, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 To heal the sick, stretch out your hand, and make the
 5 To you, O Christ, all prais - es be, whose ad - vent

$\frac{A}{C\#}$ A D $\frac{G}{D}$ D $\frac{A}{C\#}$ Bm $\frac{E7}{G\#}$ A D

that the Lord is nigh: a - wake and lis - ten
 way for God with - in, and so pre - pare - ten
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace to
 fall - en sin - ner stand; shine out, and let we
 sets your peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

G $\frac{G}{B}$ D Em $\frac{A}{C\#}$ D A $\frac{D}{F\#}$ G A D

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
 be the home where such a might - y guest may come.
 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more!