

ORDER OF WORSHIP
The First Sunday After Christmas
December 27, 2020
Second Congregational Church in Wilton,
United Church of Christ

Bold print means congregational participation.

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

An asterisk () indicates to please stand, if you are able.*

GATHERING FOR THE WORD
WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Arioso”

L. Bach

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph,
Reader **God is there.**

Leader: When they present Jesus at the temple,
Reader **God is there.**

Leader: When Simeon holds Jesus in his arms,
Reader **God is there.**

Leader: When Anna recognizes Jesus as the answer to prayer,
Reader **God is there.**

Leader: This very morning,
Reader **God is here.**

Leader: In the future we cannot see,
Reader **God is there. Let us worship God!**

***HYMN (Verses 1 & 2)**

“The First Noel”

NO. 229

The first Noel, the angel did say, was to certain poor
Shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their
Sheep, on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel

They looked up and saw a star shining in the
East, beyond them far, and to the earth it gave great
light, and so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel

INVOCATION

O God, in the sweetness of the story we tell today,
the encounter of old and young--
Mary and Joseph presenting Jesus to the elders--
We feel the movement of your Spirit making all things new.
Awake us to your presence in this moment
As we seek Christ in our midst:
Let us recognize God-with-us,
A light to the nations, your glory revealed.
In Jesus’ name we pray.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The scriptures promise that God will make all things new.
As God makes the year new, may we also be made new
by God’s love and forgiveness in Jesus. **Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us Confess together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Simeon and Anna were steeped in revered tradition,
and yet spent their lives praying to recognize the action of God
pointing to a future they could not imagine.
Far from being held back by tradition,
for them it was a constant stretch toward faithfulness:
where is God at work? What are the signs?
What needs to be let go, entrusted to a new way, new people, new
and unexpected shape?
Ways of being Church are changing quickly in these Covid-19 days,
and “getting back to normal” may mean a “new” normal.*

*So, in this moment, what are we clinging to?
What do we need to relinquish
so that we can recognize the call of God in this moment?*

Silence

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

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

***GLORIA PATRI Tune: GREATOREX**

**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

“Tiny Miracle”

P. Chopin

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:22-40

SERMON

“Acceptance”

Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns; let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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

“Where The Spirit Of The Lord Is”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***CALL TO OFFERING**

***OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

***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.

***DEDICATION PRAYER**

Reader God of Vision,
Take these offerings of money
and turn them into vision;
vision of all people fed,
vision of all people safe,
vision of all people housed,
vision of all people educated.
Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

***HYMN (*Verses 1 & 3*)**

“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the
Angels bring; on Christmas night all Christians sing to
Hear the news the angels bring; news of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King’s birth.

All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing
This night; all out of darkness we have light, which
Made the angels sing this night: "Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and forevermore. Amen

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

"In Perfect Peace"

L. Smith

*Please stay muted during the Postlude and join our
Virtual Coffee Hour immediately following the service*

Announcements/Meetings via Zoom

- Senior Book Club, December 28—10:00 AM
- Deacon's Meeting, December 28—7:00 PM

Happy New Year

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor Kerry Richardson (Interim Pastor)

Lori Dick, Liturgist

Darcy Bartsch, Chris Blumm,
Deb and Mike Degan, Vocalists

All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

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United Church of Christ

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