

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Second Sunday Of Advent
December 6, 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

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

L. Smith

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let us hear what God will speak,
Tender words for a burdened people:

People: Comfort, comfort, my people!
The days of sorrow are ending!

Let us hear what God will speak,
Encouraging words for an anxious people:

People Prepare a way for the Holy One,
Through deserts of despair
build a highway for our God!

Let us hear what God will speak,
words of vision for a weary people:

People: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss!

Come, let us worship!

***HYMN**

“You Call Us, Lord”

NO. 583

You call us, Lord, to be a people set apart,
To feel with thoughtful mind and think with tender heart.

**refrain: Thus chosen, now, O Lord, we ask for faith in your
Unfailing grace to make us equal to the task.*

You call us, Lord, to care for self and neighbor too,
To take the risk, and dare to show what love can do. **refrain*

You call us, Lord, to be good stewards of the earth;
To tend it as a place of blessedness and worth. **refrain*

You call us, Lord, to serve: to die that we may live,
To know we best receive when joyfully we give. **refrain*

LIGHTING THE FIRST AND SECOND CANDLES

O Holy One, we light this second candle,
A candle offering comfort to weary spirits
After a year of pain and loss.
Let its glow remind us of your tender care,
And warm our lives in the Light of Peace.
Let it guide us to your presence in our midst,
Leading us to your Justice and Joy in the service of Love.

People: *Out loud, but muted*
God be with us in this Light of Peace.

INVOCATION

O Holy One, you are the tender shepherd,
architect of the Way,
beguiling hope of all who go looking for you
deep in their lives.

Surprise us here with
Sweetness, challenge, vision—
Whatever we may need
In this moment to recognize you
and follow you into the future.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Beloved.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The year past has been riddled with crisis and losses:
Covid-19,
natural disasters of fire and hurricane,
exposure of societal injustices rooted in racist and sexist structures,
painful political reckonings.

In this moment we are called to examine our hearts
for our role in the last year:
to name what traditionally have been called

Sins of Commission—
that is, what we may have done
to contribute to the pain and chaos of these days;

Sins of Omission—
that is, what we may have left undone
which contributed to the pain,
or failed to help alleviate suffering.

*Silence; Use this time to examine your hearts.
If it seems appropriate, voice what you have done or left undone.*

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Comfort, comfort, my people,
says the God of Justice and Compassion.
You are forgiven your sin,
And showered with grace to change your life,
And to work toward the kin-dom of the One who is to Come:
New heavens and new earth, where righteousness is at home.
Amen.

*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

“Angels are Making Their Rounds”

P. Chopin

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:1-8

SERMON

“Our Wilderness”

*HYMN

“Jesus Calls Us O’er the Tumult”

No. 345

Jesus call us o’er the tumult of our
Life’s wild, restless sea; day be day his sweet voice
Soundeth, saying, “Christian, follow me.”

Jesus calls us from the worship of the
Vain world’s golden store, from each idol that would
Keep us, saying, “Christian, love me more.”

In our joys and in our sorrows, days of
Toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
Pleasures, “Christian, love me more than these.”

Jesus calls us by the mercies, Savior,
May we hear thy call, give our hearts to thine
Obedience, serve and love thee best of all.

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

“Arise and Shine”

R.K. Boesiger

*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

People: *Out loud, but muted*

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

HOLY COMMUNION

*HYMN

“You Meet at Friends at Table”

NO. 704

We meet as friends at table, to listen, and be heard,
United by the Spirit, attentive to the Word. Through
Prayer and conversation we tune our varied views to
Christ, whose love has made us the bearers of good news.

With food and drink for sharing the table soon is spread. The
Freedom meal of Jesus is crowned with wine and bread, and
All without exception, may eat, and speak, and stay, for
This is Christ’s own table where none are turned away.

We share our lives and longings, and when the meal is done we
Pray as friends at table, and promise to be one. To
Christ and to each other, we cheerfully belong;
Apart our hope is fruitless; together we are strong.

Fulfilled, and glad to follow wherever Christ may lead, we
Journey from the table to love a world in need with
Patience, truth and kindness, that justice may increase and
All may sit at table in freedom, joy, and peace.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

BREAKING AND POURING

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

THE DISTRIBUTION

THE BLESSING

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

*BENEDICTION

Go forth into the world energized to seek signs of God's future everywhere: especially in the unruly, unkempt, and persistent voices of Prophets in our midst: calling us to prepare the way in our lives and our world For the Holy One who is coming! **Amen.**

*POSTLUDE

"Once in Royal David's City"

Alexander/Gauntlett

*Virtual Coff-
mediately*

Please stay muted during the Postlude and join our

*fee Hour im-
following the*



Announcements

- Search Committee Meeting, Via Zoom, December 9—7:00 PM
- Holiday Blues Service Via Zoom, December 21—7:00 PM

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor Kerry Richardson (Interim Pastor)

Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music

Chris Blumm, Vocalist

Stephanie Ouellette, Liturgist

All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

The Second Congregational Church in Wilton,

United Church of Christ

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