

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
Fourth Sunday Of Advent  
December 20, 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**

“Carols at the Manger”

L. Smith

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Sing out, my soul!  
Sing of the holiness of God:

**Reader** Who has delighted in humanity;  
lifted up the poor, satisfied the hungry,  
given voice to the silent,  
and grounded the oppressor.

God has blessed the full-bellied with emptiness,  
And given the gift of tears  
To those who have never wept;

**Reader** God has desired the darkness of the womb,  
And inhabited our flesh--

Sing of the longing of God:

**Reader** Sing out, my soul!

**\*HYMN**

“We Light the Advent Candle”

NO. 175

We light the Advent candles against the winter night,  
To welcome our Lord Jesus who is the world’s True light,  
To welcome our Lord Jesus who is the world’s True Light.

The first one will remind us that Christ will soon return.  
We light it in the darkness and watch it gleam and burn,  
We light it in the darkness and watch it gleam and burn.

We light the second candle, and hear God’s holy Word,  
It tells us, cling to Jesus, prepare to meet your Lord,  
It tells us cling to Jesus, prepare to meet your Lord!

Three candles now are gleaming and show us the true way,  
Rejoice, the Baptist cries out your Lord has come today,  
Rejoice, The Baptist cries out your Lord has come today!

Four candles burning brightly announce that Christ has come,  
Prepare, my heart, believe it, and give the Christ child room,  
Prepare, my heart, believe it, and give the Christ child room.

## LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

O Holy One, we light this fourth candle,  
And marvel at your desire to be one with us.  
Let its flame summon hearts grown cold  
Into the warmth of a people living in  
The Light of Love.  
Fill our lives with Love,  
making room there for friends and strangers,  
all who desire to know you, God with us,  
As we work for justice and peace in the service of Hope.

**Reader** God be with us in this Light of Love.

## INVOCATION

O Wondrous God, send your Messenger to us today with a word of grace  
if we are fearful, move us to Confidence. If we are weary, offer us Rest.  
If we are empty, fill us with Hope.  
We have been searching for you far away;  
Let us find you at home in our midst, Changing hearts and minds  
Urging us to join your work of Love.  
We pray in the name of the One who is coming, Jesus, the Christ.  
**Amen.**

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us Confess together...

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Do not be afraid, said Gabriel, surprising Mary  
and confronting her with the decision of her life.  
Do not be afraid, God is with you.  
2020 has confronted many of us  
with life-changing circumstances and decisions.  
We know fear from the inside out.

In this moment, ponder that fear. Name it, if you can, at least to yourself.

*Silence*

Continue to ponder, and if you can, try to name where you may hear God calling:  
Do not be afraid.

*if appropriate, you may share your experiences.*

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Our God, who has been with the people since the beginning, is with us now  
offering grace that is more than we can ask or imagine.  
God's love frees us from the past, and helps us move forward into a new future.  
Let us thank God-with-Us, Emmanuel, for faithful love.

## \*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**

“Shine The Light Of Christ”

L. Schackley

**READING FROM SCRIPTURE**

**Luke 1:26-38**

**SERMON**

“Where Have All The Angels Gone?”

**\*HYMN**

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

**NO. 169**

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his  
Wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame, “All  
Hail,” said he, “O lowly maiden Mary,”  
Most highly favored Mary, gloria!

“For know a blessed mother you shall be, all  
Generations praise continually, your  
Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,”  
Most highly favored Mary, gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head. “To  
Me be as it pleases God,” she said. “my  
Soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy name.”  
Most highly favored Mary, gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in  
Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn, and  
Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
Most highly favored Mary, gloria!

**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**

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.

**\*OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

“The First Nowell”

arr. R. Stainer

**\*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**

**Reader** 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.

**GOING WITH THE WORD**

**\*BENEDICTION**

Let us go forth without fear, creating in our lives a space for  
the One who longs to dwell with us, to share our lives,  
and bless our world, and lead us into the Kin-dom of Justice and Peace.  
Amen.

**\*POSTLUDE**

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

arr. J.F. Wade

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

## Announcements



- Holiday Blues Service, December 21—7:00 PM
- Christmas Eve Service—7:00 PM

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### PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor Kerry Richardson (Interim Pastor)  
Dana Dahl, Liturgist  
Deb & Mike Degan, Vocalists  
All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

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