

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
Third Sunday Of Advent  
December 13, 2020 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**

“What Child Is This?”

Trad. English Melody, Words: C. Dix

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rejoice!  
The spirit of God is sending us:

**Reader** to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to comfort the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
to proclaim the year of favor among God’s people.

Rejoice!  
The work of the Spirit is calling us:

**Reader** To rebuild ancient relationships ruined by injustice,  
To repair the cities as places of hope,  
To restore land devastated across generations.  
to proclaim the year of favor among God’s people.

Rejoice!  
The Glory of the Spirit is leading us:

**Reader** To cast off any faint spirit and put on the mantle of praise,  
To take root as the plantings of the HOLY ONE,  
to display God’s glory.

Come, let us worship in Joy!

**HYMN NO9**

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of Glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
Well spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother all who live in love are thine;  
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began;  
Love divine is reigning o’er us joining all within its span.  
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;  
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

## LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

O Holy One, we light this third candle,  
And delight in the sparkle of its outrageous reminder to “rejoice”!  
Let its flame cast light into shadowy places  
and show where work is to be done.  
Let a community of builders be formed in  
The Light of Joy.  
Let Joy find home in our hearts,  
And make space for your presence there,  
As we work for justice and peace in the service of Love.

**People:** God be with us in this Light of Joy.

## INVOCATION

Holy One,  
Builder who delights  
in making spaces of safety and beauty,  
Matchmaker who rejoices  
in presenting new spouses with a future of hope,  
fill us today with the gifts we need  
to join you in your life-sustaining, hope-giving work in the world;  
let us share your joyful vision  
of beauty and justice in this world you have created and loved.  
In the name of the One who is coming,  
**Amen**

## WITNESS TO JOY

Instead of a typical Confession of Sin,  
today let us try something that may be equally challenging  
in light of the difficult year we have spent:  
Let’s give witness instead, to signs of Joy in our midst,  
Signs that our God is doing something new,  
and calling us to faithfulness in our contexts.

What are signs of hope, of encouragement, of change, of comfort,  
that point to the Holy One at work?

Are there signs which call us to join in, or amplify these signs in our community?

*You may use the chat or answer out loud.*

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Holy one,  
we give you thanks that you meet us in our struggles,  
and call us into a future of hope and joy.  
You have promised to be faithful,  
and we open our hearts to you in trust,  
in the name of the one you send, Jesus.

\*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

“Mary Did You Know?”

M.Lowry/B.Greene

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

John 1:6-8, 19-28

SERMON

“Do We Bear Witness?”

\*HYMN NO. 575

“Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service”

Lord, whose love through humble service bore the weight of human need  
Who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy’s perfect deed;  
We, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart,  
Consecrating to your purpose every gift that you impart.

Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread  
Still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As, O Lord, your deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
Use the love your Spirit kindles still to save and make us whole.

As we worship, grant us vision, till your love’s revealing light  
In its height and depth and greatness, dawns upon our quickened sight.  
Making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,  
Stirring us to tireless striving, your abundant life to share.

Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go  
To the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;  
Hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,  
That your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know and live.

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”

## 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

“Starlight Manger Carol”

R.E. Schram

\*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**

Go forth confident that God is faithful:  
Those who have sowed in sorrow will return with shouts of joy  
Bearing the harvest of God's work.  
Rejoice always—the Lord is near.

**\*POSTLUDE**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Trad. French Carol

*Please stay muted during the Postlude and join our*

**Announcements/Meetings via Zoom**



- Senior Book Club, December 14—10:00 AM
- Council Meeting, December 15—7:00 PM
- Holiday Blues Service Via Zoom, December 21—7:00 PM

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**PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Pastor Kerry Richardson (Interim Pastor)  
Stephanie Ouellette, Liturgist  
Dana Dahl & Chris Bloom, Vocalists  
All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

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Pastor Kerry: 603-620-0235  
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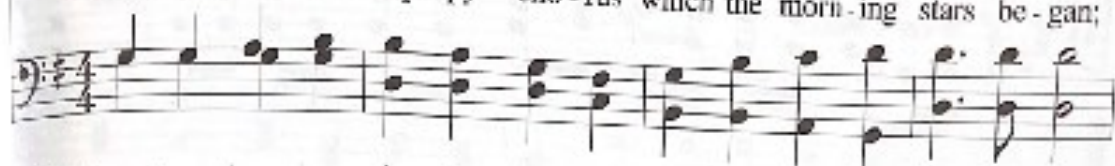


## Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

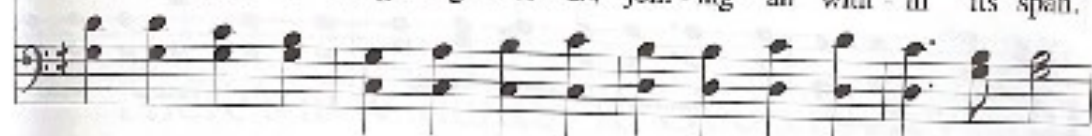
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1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;  
 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,  
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,  
 4 Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus which the morn - ing stars be - gan;



hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, open - ing to the sun a - bove,  
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bru - ken praise,  
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!  
 love di - vine is reign ing o'er us, join - ing all with - in its span.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the dark of doubt a - way;  
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - ery mead ow, flush - ing sea,  
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Broth - er— all who live in love are thine;  
 Ev - er sing ing, march we on - ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife;



giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day!  
 chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine,  
 joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward in the tri - umph song of life.



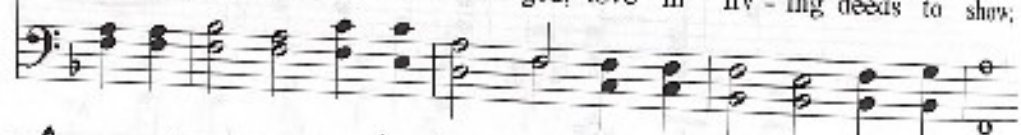
# 575 Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Servi



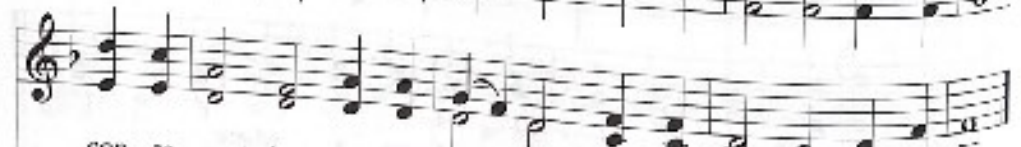
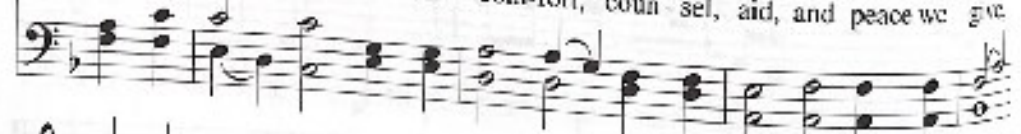
1 Lord, whose love through hum ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu - man need  
 2 Still your chil - dren wan - der home - less; still the hun - gry cry for bread  
 3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal - ing light  
 4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,



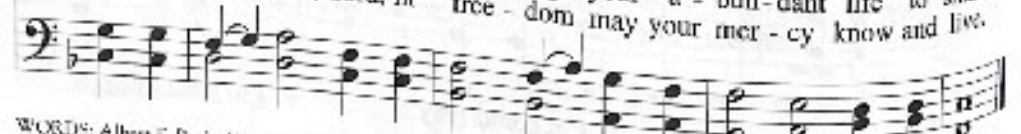
who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, of - fered mer - cy's per - fect deed;  
 still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead,  
 in its height and depth and great - ness, dawns up - on our quick - ened sight,  
 to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show,



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart,  
 As, O Lord, your deep com - pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
 mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com - pas - sion bids us bear,  
 hope and health, good will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - ery gift that you in - part,  
 use the love your Spir - it kin - dles still to save and make us whole,  
 stir - ring us to tire - less striv - ing, your a - bun - dant life to share,  
 that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.



WORDS: Albert T. Bosly (1901-1984)

MUSIC: Ann B. F. White (1800-1879); *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; arr. Ronald A. Nelson (1927-)

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 Music Director: J. R. E. Larkins Book of Praises 172 (arr. by Nelson)

BEACH SPRING  
 5, 19, 23