

ORDER OF WORSHIP
January 3, 2020
Epiphany Sunday
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

“In Perfect Peace”

L. Smith

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We gather in the Light that was before, is now, and ever will be.

Reader We seek the Light’s ancient wisdom.

Leader: We gather in the Light that is God’s continuing gift.

Reader We live into the Light’s new wisdom.

Leader: We gather in the Light that is our own, emerging anew each day.

Reader We seek to share this wisdom, nurtured in the Light from Bethlehem’s cradle.

Leader: Come, let us worship!

***HYMN**

“I Wonder as I Wander”

NO. 225

I Wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor ordinary people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, ‘twas in a cow’s stall,
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all,
But high from God’s heaven a star’s light did fall,
The promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted of any wee thing,
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God’s angels in heaven for to sing,
He surely could have it, ’cause he was the King.

I Wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor ordinary people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

Out under the sky

INVOCATION

God of Light and Love, in this very moment the star still beckons.
Gather us and let the star call us to new ways of healing and hope,
restoration and renewal, as we discover again Christ’s call to discipleship.
Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sometimes we feel lost and even consumed by darkness.
We wonder if we are loveable.

Reader Our actions dim the value and worth of others, and ourselves.
Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Sometimes we feel lost in shadows of unclear choices.
Which way will lead to justice? To transformation? To peace?
We are afraid to risk a step out, unsure of the path.

Reader **Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.**

But in Christ, God has given us a new Light, kindling unconditional love for us,
and showing us a well-lit path to wholeness and forgiveness; to courage and clarity.

Reader **Thanks be to God.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

***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

“We Three Kings”

M. Culleton

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON

“The Many Voices”

***HYMN**

“Of The Fathers Love Begotten

No. 181

Of the Father’s love begotten, Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are and have been, And that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore.

Of that birth forever blessed, When a virgin, blest with grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race;
And the babe, the world’s Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and 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

“In The Spirit Of The Lord”

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“What Child Is This?”

C. GREY

*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.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Loving God,
may these gifts reveal to us and to others
the Light that is Jesus.
And may this Light lead us on
into new and challenging ways of living and serving.

HOLY COMMUNION

*HYMN

“We Meet as 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

*HYMN

“Hark The Herald Angels Sing”

NO. 185

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies,
With th’angelic host proclaim: “Christ is born in Bethlehem.”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

*BENEDICTION

Now go surrounded by Christ’s light,
and the blessing of God Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit -
be with you now, all those you pray for,
and all those you remember. **Amen.**

*POSTLUDE

“Trumpet Tune”

J. Clarke

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

Announcements

- Search Committee Meeting, Via Zoom, January 6–7:00 PM

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor Kerry Richardson (Interim Pastor)
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music
Darcy Bartsch, Chris Blumm, Dana Dahl,
Mike and Deb Degan, Vocalists
Rebecca Kennedy, Liturgist
All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

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