

ORDER OF WORSHIP
First Sunday After Epiphany
Baptism of Christ
January 10, 2021
Second Congregational Church in Wilton,
United Church of Christ

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

Bold print means congregational participation.

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

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Adagio”

L. Beethoven

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Psalm 29

One: Give to our GOD, O heavenly beings,
Give to our GOD glory and strength.

Reader Give to our GOD a glorious name;
worship our GOD in holy splendor.

The voice of our GOD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over mighty waters.

Reader The voice of our GOD is powerful;
the voice of our GOD is full of majesty.

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
Our GOD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

Reader God makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of our GOD flashes forth flames of fire.

Reader The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
Our GOD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of our GOD causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare;
and in God’s temple all say, “Glory!”

Reader The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
Our GOD sits enthroned as ruler forever.

May our GOD give strength to the people!
May the LORD bless the people with peace!

When John baptized by Jordan’s river in faith and hope the
People came, that John and Jordan might deliver
Their troubled souls from sin and shame. They came to seek a new
Beginning, the human spirit’s ageless quest, repentance
And an end of sinning, renouncing every wrong confessed.

There as the Lord, baptized and praying, rose from the stream the
Sinless One, a voice was heard from heaven saying,
“This is my own beloved Son.” There as the Father’s word was
Spoken, not in the power of wind and flame, but of his
Love and peace the token, seen as a dove, the Spirit came.

O Son of Man, our nature sharing, in whose obedience
All are blest, Savior, our sins and sorrows bearing,
Hear us and grant us this request: daily to grow, by grace
Defended, filled with the Spirit from above; in Christ
Baptized, beloved, befriended, children of God in peace and love.

INVOCATION

Creating, Calling, and Faithful God,
we come to this time and place to be with you,
to worship you, and to learn from you.
May our time together
be like your creation of light in the darkness that you called good.
May it be that you would call us good
while we respond to your call and as we listen to you. **Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

People of God, we desire to be refreshed, renewed and changed.
Let us listen again to God’s calling our names
to encourage us and strengthen our resolve
be God’s people in faithfulness and peace-loving justice.

Let us Confess together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Reader O God, we hear your voice
and we see the way of Jesus set before us.
But it’s hard, dear God, to try again and again
To live up to our baptismal vows
and maintain our resolve to be your people in the world.
In repentance we ask you to forgive us.
Set us once again on a holy path that leads to you. **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S CALL

Friends, God hears our prayers and sets before us the way of Jesus.
God calls us and gives us enough grace and mercy to follow the way.
Thanks be to God.

*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	“Jesus, Walked into the Stream”	S. Borwick
READING FROM SCRIPTURE		Mark 1:4-11
SERMON	“Seeking Higher Ground”	
*HYMN	“When Jesus Came to Jordan”	NO. 241 <i>Vocalist: Darcy Bartsch</i>

When Jesus came to Jordan to be baptized by John,
He did not come for pardon but as the sinless one.
He came to share repentance with all who mourn their sins,
To speak the vital sentence with which good news begins.

He came to share temptation, our utmost woe and loss,
For us and our salvation to die upon the cross.
So when the dove descended on him, the Son of Man,
The hidden years had ended, the age of grace began.

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” *Vocalists: Deb and Mike Degan*

BAPTISM AND RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

At home: Have a small bowl of water to use in blessing yourselves at the appropriate time.

INTRODUCTION

Our God created new life forms and brought them up from the waters of chaos,
embraced them, and called them good.
Jesus, baptized in the river Jordan by John the Baptist,
became living water for us and embraces all of us.
Jesus embraces those who are poor, oppressed, marginalized
and all others who come seeking.
We follow Jesus with our Baptism,
marking a starting place for new life and new ways of being.
We join Jesus in love and service.
Let us prepare our hearts and minds to see, feel, and hear again the vows of Baptism.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Do you renew and affirm the promises made at your Baptism?
Reader I do.

Do you recognize the call of God to be God's people always?
I do.

Do you embrace the way of Jesus in faith and ministry?
I do

Do you accept the nurture of the Holy Spirit who renews your spirit each day?
I do.

Do you accept and embrace others who seek a liberating faith in God?
I do.

In renewing your baptismal vows,
remember your Baptism as a mark of acceptance
and welcome into the care of Christ's church
where you may begin again your Christian faith and life.

A UNISON PRAYER:

Reader O God, we rejoice in your grace, given and received.
We thank you that you claim us, that you wash us, strengthen us, and guide us,
that you empower us to live a life worthy of our calling.
In the way of Jesus, make us as water in a dry and thirsty world.
Establish us to be places of refreshment. Root us and nurture us in love,
that with all your people, that we may rightly and justly serve you.
Fill us with your fullness that our lives may overflow in service and love. Amen.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*OFFERING AND DEDICATION:

Faithful God,
Bless us in our baptismal calling to be in ministry of showing hospitality to others.
We offer the gifts that we have been given to be used
not for conquest and dominance, but for use in liberating the poor and hurting people
who pray for our liberation as well as their own.
Receive and multiply our gifts for life-giving ministry. Amen.

*OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Beautiful Light”

L. Schackley

*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.

GOING WITH THE WORD

BENEDICTION

Thank you, God, for blessing us with memories of Jesus' baptism and ours.
Thank you for removing our reluctance, doubt, and fears,
for replacing them with courage and commission.
We go forth with your calling, direction, and blessing. Amen.

*POSTLUDE

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



Announcements/Meetings via Zoom

- Senior Book Club, January 11, 10:00 AM
- Deacon's Meeting, January 17, Following Worship
- Church Council, January 19, 7:00 PM
- Annual Meeting- January 24, Following Worship

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor Kerry Richardson (Interim Pastor)

Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music

Darcy Bartsch, Dana Dahl,

Deb & Mike Degan, Vocalists

Dana Dahl, Liturgist

All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

The Second Congregational Church in Wilton,

United Church of Christ

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239 When John Baptized by Jordan's River

1 When John bap-tized by Jor-dan's riv - er in faith and hope the
 2 There as the Lord, bap-tized and pray - ing, rose from the stream the
 3 O Son of Man, our na - ture shar - ing, in whose o - be-dience

peo - ple came, that John and Jor - dan might de - liv - er
 sin - less One, a voice was heard from heav - en say - ing,
 all are blest, Sav - ior, our sins and sor - rows bear - ing,

their trou-bled souls from sin and shame. They came to seek a new be -
 "This is my own be - lov - ed Son." There as the Fa - ther's word was
 hear us and grant us this re - quest: dai - ly to grow, by grace de -

gin - ning, the hu - man spir - it's age - less quest, re - pent - ance
 spo - ken, not in the power of wind and flame, but of his
 fend - ed, filled with the Spir - it from a - bove; in Christ bap -

WORDS: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-)

MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois (ca. 1510-1561), *Genevan Psalter*, 1551; arr. Jack Schrader (1942-)Words © 1984 Hope Publishing Company
 Music Arr. © 2001 Hope Publishing CompanyRENDEZ À DIEU
9.8.9.8.D.

EPIPHANY

and an end of sin - ning, re - nounc - ing ev - ery wrong con - fessed.
love and peace the to - ken, seen as a dove, the Spir - it came.
tized, be - loved, be - friend - ed, chil - dren of God in peace and love.

The image shows a musical score for the Epiphany. It consists of two staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both staves have a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The lyrics describe the Epiphany, mentioning the end of sinning, love and peace, the Holy Spirit coming as a dove, and the children of God.

241 When Jesus Came to Jordan

1 When Je - sus came to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John,
 2 He came to share temp - ta - tion, our ut - most woe and loss,
 3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, aid us to keep the vows we make;

he did not come for par - don but as the sin - less one.
 for us and our sal - va - tion to die up - on the cross.
 this ver - y day in - vade us, and ev - ery bond - age break.

He came to share re - pent - ance with all who mourn their sins,
 So when the dove de - scend - ed on him, the Son of Man,
 Come, give our lives di - rec - tion, the gift we cov - et most:

to speak the vi - tal sen - tence with which good news be - gins.
 the hid - den years had end - ded, the age of grace be - gan.
 to share the res - ur - rec - tion that leads to Pen - te - cost.

WORDS: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000); para. Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22
 MUSIC: *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, 1693

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