

ORDER OF WORSHIP
The First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 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

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(Jeremiah 33, 1 Thessalonians 3, Luke 21)

Leader: People of faith, prepare for the coming reign of Christ!

All: **As we gather to pray and sing and listen,
A spirit of anticipation and hope fills us.**

Leader: The days are surely coming, says Our God,
When justice and righteousness will prevail.

All: **May our worship illuminate our hearts and minds,
Freeing us to respond joyfully to God's call in the days to come.**

***HYMN NO. 152**

"Prepare the Way, O Lord"

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

(Psalm 25, 1 Thessalonians 3, Luke 21)

Holy Source of life and hope, as we come together this day,
Open our ears to hear, open our eyes to see,
And open our hearts to love, That we may come to know your ways
And follow your paths. Help us grow in love for one another,
And for all creation, As we prepare for the coming of the one
Who calls us to turn from our false gods to you, Holy One,
The true source of our salvation. Amen

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us Confess together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Loving creator you call us to rejoice in your promise
Of birth that is to come, but we are afraid.

All: **You invite us into a world where
Justice and righteousness prevail, But we turn away in fear.**

Leader: We long for an easy path into your promised world,
But you warn us that there is no easy way

All: **Birth new life within us,
That we may abide in your perfect love—the love that casts out fear.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(Psalm 25, 1 Thessalonians 3)

God's Mercy and steadfast love endure,
Strengthening our hearts and overcoming our fears.
God will remove every obstacle that
Keeps us from being the body of Christ.
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

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Luke 21:25-36

“There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. "He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. "Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

SERMON

“Can I do More than Just Hope?”

*HYMN NO. 419

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

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.

PRAYER RESPONSE

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

(1 Thessalonians)

God's love for us know no bounds.
In grateful response, may our gifts to others abound.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

***DOXOLOGY Tune: OLD HUNDREDT**

**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.**

***OFFERING PRAYER**

(LUKE 21)

Giver of all good things, as we offer these gifts to you,
Open our eyes to see more clearly all that we have been given
And all that we have to give. Stretch our capacity to give of ourselves:
Our love, our companionship, And our material resources,
wherever they are needed. Amen

***HYMN NO. 424**

“How Can I Keep From Singing?”

GOING WITH THE WORD

***BENEDICTION**

(1 Thessalonians 3, Luke 21)

Go into the worlds awake to the signs of God's
Invitation to new life. Know that the reign of Christ
Draws nearer with each right action we choose. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

Praising God's glory the flowers are given by
Mike & Debbie Degan in loving memory of Deb's parents,
Robert B. & Anne M. Whipple.



Announcements

If you need or want a visit by the pastor
please contact the
church office 603-654-9045
or the pastor directly at 603-620-0235

On The Calendar

Deacon's Meeting, November 29, 7:00 PM, Via Zoom
Christmas Fair Set-up, December 1 -3
Christmas Fair, December 4, 9:00 AM—2:00 PM
Christmas Store, December 11, 11:00—3:00 PM

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor Kerry Richardson (Interim Pastor)
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music
Dana Dahl Liturgist
All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

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