

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2021
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	“Christmas Lullaby”	George Blake
INTROIT	Special Music	Sean & Clinton Degan
*CALL TO WORSHIP		<i>(John 1)</i>

Leader: In the beginning, there was the Word;
All: **the Word was in God’s presence,
and the Word was God.**

Leader: The Word was present to God from the beginning.
Through the Word all things came into being...
All: **In the Word was life, and that life was humanity’s light- -**

Leader: And the Word became flesh and stayed for a little while among us;
All: **we saw the Word’s glory—**

Leader: the favor and position of a Parent’s only Child—
All: **filled with grace, filled with truth.**
Let us rejoice in the Word!

ANTHEM	“On The Night”	Besig
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LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Leader: Holy One, we give you thanks for your presence among us
in Jesus, your Child, born into a poor family.
Christ has entered our lives, and embraced our hope and our struggle;
showing forth the power of your love in healing, teaching and challenging
the powers of the world that lead to death.
With confidence in your faithfulness,

All God be with us in the Light of Christ.

INVOCATION

O Word made Flesh,
You have come into our midst as light and wisdom,
desiring to be known to us in our lives
and to be found in the world around us.
Open our eyes and our ears and our hearts
to recognize you where you dwell
—in our midst—
Challenging, heartening, lighting the way
to truth, peace, justice.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us Confess together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: When we close ourselves off from the Light of the World
Struggling to illuminate the lives of everyone,
especially those who are poor and oppressed:

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: When we close ourselves off from the Wisdom of God,
Struggling to be heard above hate-filled words and fear-filled rhetoric:

All: **Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: When we close our hearts off from the Glory of God,
Which is known fully only in a world of peace where all creation thrives,

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

In Christ, the Light, the Word, the Glory of God's love shines in our hearts,
and we are forgiven and given strength to go forward into a new future.
Let us give thanks that in Jesus, Emmanuel, God is truly with us.

*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

HYMN

"Oh, Come All Ye Faithful"

Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, Born the King of angels;
Oh, come, let us adore him; Oh, come, let us adore him;
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, Glory in the highest;
Oh, come, let us adore him; Oh, come, let us adore him;
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n.
Son of the Father, Now in flesh appearing;
Oh, come, let us adore him; Oh, come, let us adore him;
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

Kathleen Dube

HYMN

"O Come O Come Emmanuel"

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine
Advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night and,
Death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

READING

Luke 2:1-7

Violet Blake

HYMN

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

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!”

READING

Hebrews 13:15-16

Mike Degan

HYMN

“Of The Fathers Love Begotten”

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!

READING

John 1:1-14

Loretta Smith

HYMN

“What Child Is This”

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping.
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,
come peasant king to own him
The King of Kings salvation brings
Let loving hearts enthrone him
Raise, raise a song on high
The Virgin sings her lullaby
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
His mother sings a lullaby

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:8-20

Ingrid Howard

ANTHEM

“Tiny Miracle”

Pepper

SERMON

“Are They A Threat?”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***CALL TO OFFERING**

The Love of God is born new in the world as often as we embody that love in the works of compassion, peace and justice.

***OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

“Mary Did You Know”

Dana Dahl, Kathleen Dube, Paul Martin

***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**

All **With these gifts, dear God,
accept the praise and thanksgiving of our hearts,
which rejoice in your goodness and love.
Let our gifts point to your presence in the world,
and further your dream for the world
through Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.**

HYMN

“Silent Night”

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin Mother and Child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heavenly hosts sing Al-le-lu-ia!
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night
Son of God, oh, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth

GOING WITH THE WORD

*BENEDICTION

In the beginning, the Word; the Word was in God's presence,
and the Word was God.

The Word was present to God from the beginning.

Through the Word all things came into being....

In the Word was life, and that life was humanity's light-
a Light that shines in the night,

Go forth to witness to the Light, to the Word,

to the Glory of God dwelling in us;

Go forth to live in grace and truth.

Thanks be to God!

*POSTLUDE

"Carols at the Manger"

L. Smith

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor Kerry Richardson (Interim Pastor)
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music
The Blumm Family, Advent Readers
All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

The Second Congregational Church in Wilton,
United Church of Christ
25 Gregg Street
P. O. Box 246
Wilton, NH 03086

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Email for Church Administration
Del Mogavero, 2ccwilton@gmail.com
Church Phone Number: 603-654-9045
Website: 2ccwilton.org
Pastor Kerry: 603-620-0235
Email: kerrywrichardson@comcast.net

