

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Third Sunday Of Advent
December 12, 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

***INVITATION AND GATHERING**

Leader: In the times of darkness and fear, God is ever near to love and guide us.
All: **Come, Loving God, fill our hearts.**

Leader: In the times of Joy and dancing, God is ever near in celebration.
All: **Come, Loving God fill our hearts.**

Leader: At all times and in all places, God is always with us, sustaining, healing, loving.
All: **Come, Loving God, fill our hearts with Joy.**

***HYMN NO. 239** "When John Baptized by Jordan's River"

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Lord, we have come to this place from a world of demands and schedules.
We have sought hope and peace and found them here. Now we seek the
inner joy that only your presence can bring to our lives. Open our hearts
and our spirits to your love. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us Confess together

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

It is getting more and more difficult, Lord, for us to keep our attention on
the holy things. Our lives are caught up in the planning, parties, gifts, and
other such things. We get sidetracked too easily and exhausted, we fall into
restless sleep. The cries of those in need abound and we are overwhelmed
by the need. Too often we turn a deaf ear because we feel we just can't
meet all the needs that are presented to us. Heal our hearts and spirits,
Lord. Help us understand that you do not ask us to heal everything but
rather to find a simple way in which we might lighten someone else's
burden, as you have lightened our lives. You have brought hope and peace
to us. Now cause us to rejoice in the wondrous things that you have done.
Teach us to use our gifts for the common good, and that in helping,
we find great and abundant joy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

(Unison)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The messenger has been sent to you, proclaiming that there is One who is Coming who will heal and lead you. Know that this is a great gift from God, who has always and will always love you. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI TUNE: GREATOR EX

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 3:7-18

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” “What should we do then?” the crowd asked. John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?” “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them. Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.” The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

SERMON

“Can We Tell It Like It Is?”

*HYMN NO. 451

“Be Still My Soul”

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

Let everyone give, not grudgingly or out of necessity,
but from the fullness of our gratitude to God.

***OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

***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.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

(Unison)

Holy one, blessed are you, who entrusted to our care and use the richness of creation. Through our gifts and offerings, we return to you a portion of that which you have given us. May that be a means of serving you in the mission to which you have called us, through Jesus Christ. Amen

***HYMN NO. 560**

“I Love To Tell The Story”

GOING WITH THE WORD

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Praising God's glory the flowers are given by Jan Stone.

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

Christmas Card Box for Church Members

The Christmas Card Box will be available until December 19th.
This box is for members to send Christmas Cards to friends that come to church without
having to mail them. They will be sorted and available for pick up on Christmas Eve
in the Parish Hall.

On The Calendar

Senior Book Club, December 13, 10:00 AM via Zoom
Council Meeting, December 14, 7:00 PM via Zoom
Longest Night Service, December 21, 7:00 PM
Christmas Eve Service, December 24th, 7:00 PM

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

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

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