

**Fourth Sunday Of Advent
December 19, 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**

(Micah 5, Luke 1)

Leader: God has done great things for us!
All: God's love is heralded in the promise of Christ

Leader: Holy is God's name!
All: God's salvation is offered in the gift of Christ

***HYMN NO. 179**

"Joy To The World"

OPENING PRAYER

(Unison)

Holy god, your prophet Micah foretold with faith
That a new ruler would come forth from Bethlehem—
Today we celebrate the fulfillment of your promise;
Your daughter Elizabeth proclaimed with faith
That her cousin was to be the mother of her Lord—
Today we celebrate the fulfillment of your promise;
Your servant Mary proclaimed with faith
That she would be called blessed by all generations—
Today we celebrate the fulfillment of your promise.
Make us bold enough to proclaim with faith—
The coming of your kingdom,
The coming of your justice, the coming of your peace.
May we sing out the good news of your salvation,
Trusting in fulfillment of your promises.
All this we pray in the name of the one who comes. Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us Confess together

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(Unison)

Loving God, even in the midst of this season of goodwill,
There is much to confess. In spite of holiday cheer,
Stress and anxiety rule our lives.
We miss the reason for the season,
Focusing instead on Christmas parties, long to-do lists,
And trying to get the shopping done.
We fail to think about your reordered world—
Help us adjust our Christmas priorities,
that we might join with you, O god,
In preparing a world that welcomes
The one who brings us peace

(Silent Prayer)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The ancient promises of God are fulfilled. God does not forget us.
God's mercy extends from generation to generations.
Let our souls rejoice in 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

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:39-56

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors." Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

SERMON

“One True Confidant”

*HYMN NO. 236

“With Gladness”

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

Oh God it seems the need this time of year is beyond our reach.
Guide us to give as Mary gave, let us give from our hearts. Amen.

*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.

*DEDICATION

(Unison)

Dear God, you blessed Mary by making her the
mother of your only Son, Jesus Christ.
You have blessed us, as well, with the gift of your Son,
And indeed, with the gift of life itself.
Out of all these blessings, we give you back these offerings this day.
Knowing that your promise will be fulfilled, we pledge our lives to you
In anticipation of the coming of the one who brings us peace. Amen.

*HYMN NO. 136

“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty”

GOING WITH THE WORD

*BENEDICTION

As we head into the final days before Christmas, may we leave
This place secure in the knowledge that God's promises will be fulfilled.
December 25 is just six days away but the gift that God gives us will not
wear out or fade away.

*POSTLUDE

Praising God's glory the flowers are given by Chris and Sandy Blumm in memory of loved ones.

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 today,
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

Holiday Blues 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
Loretta Smith, Liturgist
Lamar & Loretta Smith, Advent Readers
All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

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