

First Sunday After Christmas  
December 26, 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**

Leader: Children are precious to God.  
The child Samuel grew in God's favor  
and the child Jesus grew likewise.

**All: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!**

Leader: Older adults and elders are precious to God.  
Young and old together praise God's name.

**All: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!**

Leader: Creation is precious to God:  
cedars, mountains, snow & frost, shining stars.

**All: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!**

**\*HYMN NO. 593**

"Lord, Speak to Me"

**INVOCATION**

*(Psalm 148)*

Creator God, you are worthy to be praised.  
You have created  
"Rulers of the earth and all peoples,  
Young men and women alike, old and young together!"  
You made them to be together  
in a good creation that provides for them, a world covered in  
"Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!  
Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!"  
All of life is connected by your design.  
We give you thanks for creating all of us, invaluable. **Amen.**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Let us Confess together

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*(Colossians 3:12; 14)*

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

O God, clothe us anew,  
for we confess we do not clothe our spirits as you require.  
The compassion we clothe ourselves with is conditional.  
The love we clothe ourselves with is limited.  
Forgiveness and gratitude:  
these are the garments we need to live in community,  
yet we rend them and fail to fit them, over and over again.  
Weave us new garments which do not need mending,  
clothes that protect us like suits of armor  
and that we can delight in like cozy sweaters.  
May we outwardly show what we inwardly know:  
Your love has no bounds.

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Word of Christ indeed dwells within you richly and shines through you brightly. It dwells and shines also in your neighbor, near and far.  
We need only let our lights mingle to know first-hand the connective power of Incarnate Love. 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 2:41-52

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he was saying to them. Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

#### SERMON

"And So This Is Christmas"

#### \*HYMN NO. 162

"Like a Child"

#### 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**

**CALL TO THE OFFERING**

Where are you searching for Christ Jesus?  
Don't you know Christ is attending to our Holy Parent's interests:  
those old and young ones suffering malnourishment & maltreatment,  
the Creation itself, which is suffering the same?  
Align, siblings in Christ, with our Redeemer.  
Give of your plenty that the desperate may know hope.

**\*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.

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*(Unison)*

Just as you, Holy God, crossed every conceivable barrier  
by taking on flesh and teaching on behalf of the outcast and poor,  
we are called to respond in kind by your grace.  
May the gifts offered today aid truly your work of  
reconciliation and peace in our world. Amen.

**\*HYMN NO. 184**

“What Child Is This”

**GOING WITH THE WORD**

**\*BENEDICTION**

Go forth and whatever you do, do it according to the heart of Jesus,  
our Sovereign. Teach children, and let children teach you, cultivate  
wisdom and gratitude, and mend the earth in the name of our God. Amen.

**\*POSTLUDE**

Praising God's glory the flowers are given by  
Sue Warren in loving memory of her Dad, Carl A. Warren.

## 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

Today we will be taking our Mission Possible Offering during the first Anthem.

### On The Calendar

Church Office Closed, December 27  
Senior Book Club, December 27, 10:00 AM Via Zoom

#### **PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

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

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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

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

