

ORDER OF WORSHIP  
Second Sunday Of Advent  
December 5, 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**

*(Luke 1,3)*

Leader: A Voice cries out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

All: **Make God's paths straight.**

Leader: Every valley will be filled, and every mountain will be leveled.

All: **The crooked will be made straight.**

Leader: The rough and rocky ways will be smoothed.

All: **All will see the salvation of God.**

Leader: See the light from on high. The dawn is breaking.

All: **The Lord is coming! The Lord is coming!**

**\*HYMN NO. 428**

**"When Peace Like a River"**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

*(Malachi 3)*

Blessed is the Lord, and blessed are God's people  
to whom God sends a savior, the messiah,  
Who is Christ the Lord.

Blessed is our God, and blessed are God's gifts,  
That grace us with forgiveness and every good gift.  
Lord, you have come to dwell within us.  
Build your temple within our hearts. Amen.

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Let us Confess together

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*(Malachi 3; Luke 1,3)  
(Unison)*

O Lord, darkness surrounds us  
Like a cold stone tomb, until your  
Light burst into our lives like a clear, bright dawn.  
We cover our eyes, we're so unprepared for your coming.  
Your light blazes forth like a white-hot fire,  
Consuming all that it touches.  
How can we stand before you, Lord?  
The road that we thought was straight and wide  
Is now exposed as a twisted, crooked path,  
Blocked by a mountain of sin.  
Where can we turn? Who will guide us  
back to the way of peace—The way that leads to you?

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*(Malachi 3, Luke 1, Philippians 1)*

The Lord is merciful and forgiving,  
A great and compassionate savior.  
God rescues us from darkness and frees us from fear.  
Like a refiner's fire, the Lord makes us shine  
With the brilliance of the purest gold and silver  
The one who began this work in us seeks to bring it to completion.  
May the day of Christ find us flawless and without blame.

## \*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 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight the rough ways smooth. and all people will see God’s salvation.’ ”

### SERMON

“Are We On Auto Pilot?”

### \*HYMN NO. 156

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER

### PRAYER RESPONSE

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

The Lord is coming. Prepare the way! Prepare to welcome the messiah!  
Welcome the redeemer with your very lives. Know the Lord’s tender  
mercy. Let all that you are, become an offering pleasing to God.

### \*OFFERTORY ANTHEM

### \*DOXOLOGY Tune: OLD HUNDREDDTH

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 1)  
(Unison)*

We delight in your love and salvation, Lord, there can be no greater gifts than these. We will gladly serve you in holiness and righteousness. We offer ourselves. We offer all that you have provided us. May it be used to bring your light to those who dwell in darkness. Prepare us and complete us Lord. Amen.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**\*HYMN NO. 689**

“One Bread, One Body”

**CALL TO THE TABLE**

**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.

**BREAKING AND POURING**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**\*HYMN NO. 614**

“Let There be Peace on Earth”

**GOING WITH THE WORD**

**\*BENEDICTION**

May your love overflow, rich and wholesome in the world.  
May you be found pure and blameless,  
May you reap the bountiful harvest of righteousness  
that comes through Jesus Christ,  
To the glory and praise of God. Amen

**\*POSTLUDE**

Praising God's glory the flowers are given by Becky Kennedy.

## 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

### Helpers Needed!

The Parish Hall is scheduled for a deep cleaning on December 8th at 4:00 PM  
And December 11th at 9:00 AM. If you are able, please lend a helping hand.

### 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

Christmas Store, December 11, 11:00–3:00 PM  
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  
Deb Degan, Liturgist  
Lamar Smith, Assisting with Communion  
Jan Stone and Becky Kennedy, Advent Readers  
All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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