

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**Second Sunday After Christmas**  
**January 2, 2022**  
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: Arise, shine, for your light has come!  
All: **The Glory of the Lord has risen upon us!**

Leader: Like sages from afar, come and behold your Christ  
All: **Let us fall on our knees in his honor!**  
**Let us lift our voices in praise of his name!**

**\*HYMN NO. 121** "Christ is the World's Light"

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

God of our hopes, Christ of our faith, Spirit in our hearts,  
we come to worship you with joy and gladness.  
Your goodness knows no limits of generation or gender,  
Of condition or citizenship. You are kind to all,  
And we worship you in all sincerity;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Let us Confess together

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Glorious God, we have faith in Jesus Christ,**  
**and love towards your people, yet we are not without blemish**  
**In your sight, not full of love, wisdom, and other spiritual**  
**Blessings you still have available for us. Our love is not as**  
**Inclusive as yours, and there is much we need to learn.**  
**Give us clearer vision of all that we are meant to be.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: Friends, hear the Good News!  
The liberator has come to free us from all proud pretenses.  
All: **The Christ has come in Jesus of Nazareth to show us**  
**the underserved favor of God.**

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!  
All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

**\*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**

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God - children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

**SERMON**

"What is the Word?"

**\*HYMN NO. 187**

"O Holy Night"

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**\*OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

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.

**\*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**

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.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**\*HYMN NO. 695**

“As We Gather at Your Table”

**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**

We Give Thanks, God of Job and Jeremiah, David's Lord, Anna's Christ,  
Luke's Savior, that we have found your house in many places.  
We have found places of prayer with the swallows and the sparrows.  
We have sung your praise in a quiet circle under the stars. We have  
enjoyed the choir of many voices and the joyous sounds of musical  
instruments and found inspiration and refreshment. Along our pilgrim  
way you provide the cup that sustains both soul and body.  
We are happy when we trust in you. Amen

**\*HYMN NO. 215**

“Were you there on that Christmas Night”

## GOING WITH THE WORD

### \*BENEDICTION

O Christ, we know that the gifts of our hands are no substitute for the loyalty of our lives. As we leave this sanctuary enable us to serve your creation as we have worshiped you, with ourselves as well as our gifts.

### \*POSTLUDE

### 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

### On The Calendar

Blood Drive, January 6  
Senior Book Club, January 10, 10:00 AM via zoom  
Council Meeting, January 18, 7:00 PM via Zoom

### PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor Kerry Richardson (Interim Pastor)  
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music  
Stephanie Ouellette, Liturgist  
Stephanie Ouellette, Assisting with Communion  
All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

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