

Second Sunday After Epiphany  
Martin Luther King, Jr., Weekend  
January 16, 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

*Our goal is to create a beloved community and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives.*  
*Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

**PRELUDE**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Our God has made us to be One Body with many members.

All: **United and uniting. This is our calling.**

Leader: God calls us to share our diverse gifts  
activated by the one and same Spirit .

All: **United and uniting. This is our redemption.**

Leader: God longs for us to be united in love  
and to manifest the Spirit in our different ways.

All: **United and uniting. This is our worship.**

Leader: Let us gather in this hour to offer praise and worship  
to our Holy God, who challenges us  
and calls us to *create the Beloved Community.*

**\*HYMN NO. 609**

“Come to a Wedding”

**INVOCATION**

Leader: O God, all people are your Beloved,  
across races, nationalities, religions, sexual orientations  
and all the ways we are distinctive from one another.  
We are all manifestations of your image.  
*We are bound together in an inescapable network of mutuality  
and tied to a single garment of destiny.*

You call us into your unending work of justice, peace and love.

All: **Let us know your presence among us now:**

**Let us delight in our diversity  
that offers glimpses of the mosaic of your beauty.  
Strengthen us with your steadfast love and  
transform our despairing fatigue into hope-filled action.**

Leader: Under the shadow of your wings in this hour  
may we find rest and strength, renewal and hope.  
All: **We ask this, inspired by the example  
of your disciple, Martin Luther King, Jr.,  
and in Jesus' name. Amen.**

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us Confess together...

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we long to co-create with you the Beloved Community  
which looks to the common good; privileges all equally,  
and creates societal systems which celebrate the humanity and the gifts of all.  
And yet we focus on our differences, envy each other's gifts,  
devalue manifestations of you, O God, that are not like our own.

Perhaps our sin is a slow wait for justice:  
We allow the voices of brothers and sisters  
who do not look like us, love like us, or worship like us  
to be silenced.  
We have told them to wait for freedom, justice and equality.  
We foster in them *a denigrating sense of nobodiness.*

**Lord, have mercy.**

Or perhaps we have kept silent ourselves  
in the face of their struggle for full human life.  
*For it is not solely hateful words and actions,  
but also appalling silence that follows the path of oppression.*

**Christ, have mercy.**

Perhaps our sin is to give in to weariness, discouragement, bitterness:  
You have called us to be *drum majors for justice, peace and righteousness,*  
Yet the work of peace and justice overwhelms us at times,  
To build with God the Beloved Community seems impossible,  
and we grow weary. We cry, "Peace, peace,"  
but there is no peace within us or around us.  
We find ourselves on the path of hatred and oppression, violence and war.

**Lord, have mercy.**

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Sisters and brothers, God is at work in us and with us!  
God has promised:  
"I will not keep silent and I will not rest  
until the vindication of my beloved people  
shines out like the dawn and their salvation like a burning torch.  
My people shall no more be termed 'forsaken'  
and their land shall no more be termed 'desolate.'"  
We remember that you have given your Beloved people a new name:  
"My delight is in them."

**All:** Thank you, God for delighting in us even now,  
for forgiving us our slow action, our silence and our weariness,  
for empowering our work and inviting us once again  
to create with you the Beloved Community you long for.

**\*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 2:1-11

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

**SERMON**

"Don't Over Look The Ordinary"

**\*HYMN NO. 611**

"As Man and Woman We Were Made"

**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

Brothers and sisters, who we are and yet becoming as individuals shows God's presence in the world. That divine presence is reflected even more fully, powerfully, and transformatively as we unite in Beloved Community. Let us bring ourselves, our gifts, and our resources together that God may be glorified.

## \*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

O God, we commit to use all our gifts  
--wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing,  
working of miracles, prophecy, discernment,  
tongues, administration, hospitality, and finances--  
in the service of acting as co-workers with you and each other  
for *peace and justice to flow like a mighty stream.*

## \*HYMN NO. 716

"God Be With You"

## GOING WITH THE WORD

## \*BENEDICTION

Let us go forth to celebrate and strengthen  
our *inescapable network of mutuality*,  
and become *the radiant hope* needed in the world.  
As we go forth in this mutuality, may we experience our  
God rejoicing over us and with us. Let us go forth confident that  
*unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word. Amen!*

## \*POSTLUDE

*Phrases from the speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr. have been woven into the prayer texts. They are identified by italics. Texts of King's work are available in **A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings of Martin Luther King, Jr.**, edited by James M. Washington; © 1986 Coretta Scott King. A brief essay on King's understanding of the term "Beloved Community" is available at <http://www.wilpf.org/mlksbelovedcommunity>.*

## Announcements

If you need or want a visit by the pastor please contact the church office 603-654-9045 (Messages are usually returned by the next business day) or the pastor directly at 603-620-0235

**Tuesday January 18, 2022 4:00-5:30 p.m is the next Parents' Cafe** with an emphasis of "Reclaiming Your Time." Second Congregational is a sponsor of this important opportunity for all parents, grandparents, and child caregivers to share experiences and ideas on their relevant child/adult relationships.

The Zoom meeting registration link is:

<https://conta.cc/3d9y8We>

Need more information? Contact Melissa Sidilau, Program Assistant, C.A.S.T. Parent Engagement Program, Boys and Girls Club of Souhegan Valley 603-672-1002 ext. 122

## On The Calendar

Council Meeting, January 18, 7:00 PM via Zoom  
Annual Meeting, January 23, following worship  
Deacon's Meeting, January 24, 7:00 PM via Zoom

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

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

## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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