

First Sunday After Epiphany
January 9, 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**

One: Sisters and brothers, today we recall:
Jesus came to the waters of baptism.

All: **In baptism, our Creator claims us
and frees us from the power of hatred and death.**

One: In baptism we are joined to Christ
and we are joined together in unity, recalling

All: **“There is no longer Jew or Greek
there is no longer slave or free
there is no longer male or female
for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”**

One: In baptism, the Spirit of God anoints us for ministry
and makes us signs of divine love.
It is the mark of acceptance into the church
and the beginning of our growth
into full Christian faith and discipleship.

All: **Therefore on this day,
the whole church, the Body of Christ,
remembers and celebrates.**

One: Let us worship God!

***HYMN NO. 231**

“Arise Your Light Is Come!”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us Confess together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(Unison)

Gracious God, we confess that too often we live
as though we are fearful, not faithful.
When we encounter the waters of chaos and confusion,
we don't easily pass through them, but we obsess about
the height of the water instead of the sight of the other side.
You promised to walk through the rivers with us.
Help us believe. And help our unbelief.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

One: Thus says the God who created you and formed us in God's image:
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine."
This is the good news!

All: I belong to God.

*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

*HYMN NO. 233 "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

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 SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

When we give our tithes and offerings, we are witnesses to the
transforming love of God in Christ. I invite you to give as generously
as you have received.

*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.

*BLESSING OF THE GIFTS

Accept these gifts, we humbly pray, O God.
Let them give you honor and glory as we serve the needs of your people.
And let the called and redeemed of God say, Amen

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

SERMON

“What Does it Mean to You?!”

REMEMBRANCE OF OUR BAPTISMS

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God,
to be a disciple, to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,
to resist oppression,
to show love and justice,
and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ,
as best you are able?

(Answer Silently)

Pastor: And do you promise, according to the grace given to you,
to grow in your faith and to be a faithful member of the church,
celebrating Christ’s presence and furthering God’s mission in all the world?

REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Pastor: If you choose, you may come forward to recall the promises of your baptism—
made either by you or on your behalf by your parents/guardians.
If you have never been baptized, consider whether this is the day
you would like to start the journey toward your formal commitment.

Please come forward to the font
and as you touch your forehead with the water, say,
“I am God’s beloved!”

PRAYER OF RECOMMITMENT

All: By your Spirit, Almighty God, Grant us
Love for others, Joy in serving you,
Peace in disagreement, Patience in suffering,
Kindness toward all people, Goodness in evil times,
Faithfulness in temptation, Gentleness in the face of opposition,
Self-control in all things.
Then strengthen us for ministry in your name. Amen.

*HYMN NO. 184

“What Child is This”

GOING WITH THE WORD

*BENEDICTION

Remember this week whose you are. And remember, “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the reivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.” Go in the peace of Christ.

*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

Meetings Via Zoom

Senior Book Club, January 10, 10:00 AM

Search Committee Meeting, January 11, 7:00 PM

Council Meeting, January 18, 7:00 PM

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor Kerry Richardson (Interim Pastor)

Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music

Jane Herlihy, Liturgist

All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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