



*Second Congregational Church in Wilton,  
United Church of Christ  
Open and Affirming*

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**  
**December 4, 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: "Blessed be the Lord of Israel,  
For he has visited and redeemed his people,  
People: **And has raised up a horn of salvation for us**  
**In the house of his servant David,**  
**Through the tender mercy of our God,**

Leader: When the day shall dawn upon us from on high  
To give light to those who sit in darkness and  
in the shadow of death,

People: **To guide our feet in the way of peace."**

*(Luke 1, selected verses)*

**\*HYMN** "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates" NO. 176

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE** **PEACE**  
*Peter and Stephanie Ouellette*

**READINGS**

PRAYER

(UNISON)

Come, Christmas God  
Christ Child of Bethlehem  
Spirit of Wonder  
Be born in us and your world  
once more that joy may be shared  
peace proclaimed and love abound. Amen.  
*(Kate McIlagga)*

HYMN            “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”  
*(Seated)*

For lo, the days are hastening on,  
By prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever circling years  
Comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world send back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

### ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM

JOYS AND CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL 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.

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

**INVITATION TO SHARE OUR OFFERINGS**

**\*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**

**O loving God, giver of every good and perfect gift,  
in gratitude we present these offerings. Use them and us  
for your work in the world, that both gift and giver may  
be a blessing to those who receive. Amen.**

**READING OF SCRIPTURE**

*Luke 3:7-18*

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." "What should we do then?" the crowd asked. John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same." Even tax collectors came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them. Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay." 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." And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

**SERMON**                      **"The Gatherer"**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**\*HYMN**      **"Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"**      **NO. 232**  
(seated)

**SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

We welcome all people to join in receiving this sacrament. Children may participate at the discretion of their parents (guardians). The cup contains grape juice and the bread in the small bowl is gluten free.

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**PRAYER**

**SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

When receiving the bread, eat it when you are ready as a sign of your personal relationship with God, and when receiving the cup, please wait for the minister to initiate when we drink after all have been served as a sign of being in the community of Christ.

**\*HYMN “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”**

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold;  
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,  
From heaven’s all gracious king”  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,  
With peaceful wings unfurled  
And still their heavenly music  
floats o’er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o’er its Babel  
sounds the blessed angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when, with the ever circling years,  
shall come the time foretold,  
When peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
And all the world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

**GOING WITH THE WORD**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

## On The Calendar

Christmas Store, December 17, 9:00 AM–11:00 AM

Christmas Concert, December 18, 2:00–4:00 PM

## Announcements

### **Amazon Smile**

Going into our third year of Amazon Smiles program, did you know that as of September 2022 the Church has received \$248.35 in FREE money.

#### **What is Amazon Smiles?**

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support the church every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and when you shop with AmazonSmile, the added benefit is that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. While you can choose from over one million organizations to support, we humbly suggest you select Second Congregational Church of Wilton NH.

How can you participate using a web browser:

1. Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)
2. Sign in with the same account you use for Amazon.com
3. Select your charity - Second Congregational Church of Wilton NH.
4. Start shopping! Remember to checkout at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to generate donations for your chosen charity. Tip: Add a bookmark to make it easier to shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).

**PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Rev. Larry Smith, Guest 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)

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

