



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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**Christmas Eve**

**December 24, 2022**

**Welcome to the worship of God at the  
Second Congregational Church in Wilton,  
United Church of Christ.**

**We are glad you are here this evening!**

***Bold print means congregational participation.  
An asterisk (\*) indicates to please stand, if you are able.***

**WE WELCOME YOU**

on this blessed night and hope that  
our service will be meaningful for you.  
Also, to ensure that our Candle Light Ceremony be not only  
inspirational but also safe, we ask that you

***PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING:***

**THE CANDLE LIGHT CEREMONY**

The candles of the candle lighters  
are lit from the Christ Candle, which symbolizes our Lord,  
Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.  
They will bring their light to the first worshiper in each pew.  
**REMEMBER THAT THE LIGHTED CANDLE REMAINS UPRIGHT, AND  
THE UNLIGHTED CANDLE IS TIPPED TO THE LIGHTED.  
PLEASE BE CAREFUL.** Candles are to be extinguished after the  
prayer that follows the singing of "Silent Night."  
Candles should be placed in receptacles when exiting.

## GATHERING FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE                    “Beside the Cradle”                    H. Kihlken

### WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT                    “Still, Still, Still”                    Traditional German Carol  
Darcy Barsch & Chris Blumm

### CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the night of the fulfillment of a promise.

**It is the most beautiful night in all the year.**

It is the night of shepherds and stables,  
of humble people everywhere.

**It is the night of our dear Savior’s birth.**

O come, let us adore Him, who was born—Christ the Lord.

\*HYMN                    “O Come, All Ye Faithful”                    NO. 182

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION                    (Unison)

O loving God, we thank you for this night and for all that it represents. We thank you for the hope you bestow ... the peace you bring ... the love you pour out ... and the joy you give. We praise you most of all for Jesus, your Word made flesh to dwell among us. May He light our way as the holy star lit the way for the wise men, and so bless the world with your truth and grace. Amen.

*Please remain seated for all following  
hymns until “Silent Night”*

### THE PROMISE OF HIS COMING

SCRIPTURE                    Isaiah 11:1-4                    Peter Ouellette

HYMN                    “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”                    NO. 154  
(Verses 1 & 4)

**THE HOLY BIRTH**

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-7 Marilyn Warner  
HYMN "Away in a Manger" NO. 203  
LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE The Blumm Family  
ANTHEM "Tiny Miracles" P. Chopin

**GOOD NEWS OF A GREAT JOY**

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:8-16  
CHRISTMAS MESSAGE  
"The 3 R's of Christmas" Rev. Smith  
HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem" NO.180  
(Verses 1 & 4)

**THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

ANTHEM "Sweetest Music, Softly Stealing" E. Hagenberg

**\*SONG OF DEDICATION (tune: DIX)**

As they offered gifts most rare,  
At that manger rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy,  
Pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasure bring  
Christ to thee our heavenly King.

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

O God, you have shown us the beauty and the power and the glory of your love for us and all the world in the life and ministry of your beloved Son and our Lord Jesus Christ. May your love always inspire us in our giving and doing unto others as Jesus was among us as one who serves. Receive now our individual gifts and these offerings and make them and us to be channels of your blessing to others. Amen.

**THE CANDLE LIGHT CEREMONY**

<b>ANTHEM</b>	“O Holy Night”	A. Adams
<b>*HYMN</b>	“Silent Night”	NO. 186

Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright.  
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,  
Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God love's pure light.  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With dawn of the redeeming grace,  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.

**\*PRAYER** (Unison)

**We thank you, O God, for the light that came into our world in the life of Jesus. We pray that His spirit be in our hearts; that the love that sent Him may dominate our lives, that the faith which all His life sustained him may be kindled in us. Let us this night and always rejoice in that radiant light of your love that stooped to a stable and yet is more enduring than the stars ... the light of Him who causes heaven and earth to sing with great joy. Amen.**

**\*CANDLES EXTINGUISHED**

**\*HYMN**

“Joy to the World”

NO.179

Joy to the world, the Lord is come  
Let Earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And Heaven and nature sing  
And Heaven and nature sing  
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing

Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns  
Let all their songs employ  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy

He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders, wonders, of His love

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

“Go Tell it on the Mountain”

J. Mansfield



*We welcome you to join us each  
Sunday at 10am for worship*

**PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Rev. Larry Smith, Guest Pastor  
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music  
All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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