



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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**December 18, 2022**  
**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**

**PRELUDE**            “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”            Smith

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**INTROIT**            Musical Offering by Paul Martin

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*HYMN**            “Angels We Have Heard on High”            **NO. 188**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**            Love  
Jane Herlihy and Lori Dick

**READINGS**

**PRAYER**            (Unison)

Loving God, thank you for expressing your love through  
the life of Jesus, through our lives, and the lives of  
those around us. Help us to remember that your love is  
what enables us to have hope, to discover peace, and to  
know joy—a love that will never end. Amen.

**HYMN**            “Joy To The World”            (seated)

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.



**\*HYMN**                      “What Child Is This?”                      NO. 184

**SCRIPTURE READING**    John 1:1-14  
Loretta Smith

**DUET**            “Still, Still, Still”.            Traditional Austrian Carol  
Darcy Bartsch and Chris Blumm

**RESPONSIVE READING**  
(Congregation reads the words in **bold**)  
**First Coming**

God did not wait till the world was ready,  
till ... nations were at peace.  
God came when the Heavens were unsteady,  
and prisoners cried out for release.

**God did not wait for the perfect time.**  
**God came when the need was deep and great.**  
**God dines with sinners in all their grime,**  
**turned water into wine. God did not wait**

till hearts were pure. In joy God came  
to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.  
To a world like ours, of anguished shame  
God came, and God’s light would not go out.

**God came to a world which did not mesh,**  
**to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.**  
**In the mystery of the Word made Flesh**  
**the Maker of the stars was born.**

We cannot wait till the world is sane  
To raise our songs with joyful voice,  
For to share our grief, to touch our pain,  
God came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

*Madeline L 'Engle*

SOLOIST                      “Gesu Bambino”                      Pietro A Yon  
   Deb Degan

READING                      “Keeping Christmas”

SOLOIST                      Musical Offering by Joshua Bartsch

UNISON PRAYER      *Lord, Lord, Open Unto Me*  
   by Howard Thurman

Lord, Lord, Open Unto Me  
    Open unto me – light for my darkness  
Open unto me – courage for my fear  
    Open unto me – hope for my despair  
Open unto me – peace for my turmoil  
    Open unto me – joy for my sorrow  
Open unto me – strength for my weakness  
    Open unto me – wisdom for my confusion  
Open unto me – forgiveness for my sins  
    Open unto me – tenderness for my roughness  
Open unto me – love for my hates  
    Open unto me – Thy self for my self  
Lord, Lord, Open Unto Me.

#### GOING WITH THE WORD

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

Many thanks to Pat Cauchon, our Director of Music,  
the members of the choir, soloists, and others who have  
participated this morning to make this  
a special service of Word & Song.

## 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).

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Del, our Administrative Assistant will be on vacation  
December 23, 2022 – January 2, 2023

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### *On The Calendar*

Christmas Concert, Today, 2:00–4:00 PM  
Christmas Eve Service, December 24, 7:00 PM  
Deacon's Meeting, December 28, 7:00 PM Via Zoom  
Annual Meeting reports to Leslie by Jan 1 if at all possible  
Christmas Day service 10:00 AM



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

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

## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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