



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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP
Third Sunday After Epiphany
January 22, 2023**

**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: Come all who have known gloom and anguish.
Come all who have walked amid the terrors
of the night

Many: **There are ties we feel oppressed and forsaken.
Our losses seem greater than we can bear.**

One: God is our light and our salvation. God is our
stronghold; we need not fear. Come behold the
beauty of God. Come and find shelter in a time
of trouble.

Many: **We will sing and make melody to God. We will
shout out with joy for God is among us.**

***HYMN** "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" NO. 344

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)

**Shine on us today, gracious God, for we need the
light and salvation You offer. Come to each one of
us gathered here, and to all who are a part of this
community of faith. Come to our town, our nation and
our world, to still the quarrels and still the dissolve the
enmity among us. Come with good news of health and
wholeness for everyone. Bring us closer to Your kingdom**

and teach us again today, uniting our hearts and minds so we can live as Jesus taught us, as we now pray as He taught: 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. Lead us not into temptation, and deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: Jesus called to people and invited them to follow Him. We too, are invited to repent and follow Jesus.

Moment of Silence

All: O God, help us to turn our lives around. For far too long we have been hiding in the shadows, reluctant to express our faith. Help us to see clearly those parts of ourselves that need to change. Forgive us and help us to step into the light of Your love as we seek to follow Jesus. This we ask in His name. Amen

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God is gracious and welcomes you into the light. All who seek forgiveness with a truly repentant heart are forgiven. Step into the light of God's love, grace and forgiveness.

***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

Isaiah 9:1-4

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Matthew 4:12-23

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

SERMON "Follow Me"

***HYMN** "Here I Am, Lord" **NO. 559**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Through the sharing of our resources, the sharing of our time, talent and treasure, we bring light into the world and help to bring about the kingdom of God. Lets us now joyfully share what we have brought to this place today in our morning offering.

***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)

Let the gifts we bring today be blessed and multiply so that this church community can continue to be a beacon of light in the world. Gracious God, make us instruments of Your peace and show us how to follow Jesus. It is to these purposes that we now dedicate these gifts. Amen

***HYMN** "Amazing Grace" **NO. 422**

GOING WITH THE WORD

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

On The Calendar

Church Annul Meeting today following Worship (also available on zoom) Light lunch will be provided

Deacon's Meeting, January 30, 7:00 PM via Zoom

Praising God's glory the flowers are given by
Kevin & Sue Jean
In loving memory of Kevin's Mom, M.Patricia Jean

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Dr. Rev. Rhonda MacLeod, Guest Pastor
Stephanie Ouellette, Liturgist
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music

All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

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