



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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP
Fourth Sunday After Epiphany
January 29, 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: Jesus said, “Blessed are the poor in Spirit”
the kingdom of God is theirs.

Many: Jesus says that those who mourn will be
blessed. Jesus says they will be comforted.

One: Jesus proclaims that the meek will inherit the
earth and the merciful will receive mercy.

Many: All who hunger and thirst for God’s word
will be blessed. Jesus said they will be filled.

One: Blessed are the pure in heart and blessed are
the peacemakers. They are God’s children.

Many: Those who are persecuted and falsely accused
are also blessed. We will rejoice for God
promises us blessings.

***HYMN** “Love Divine All Loves Excelling” NO. 358

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)

Let the mountains hear our voices raised in prayer and praise as we gather in this place to honor and worship You O God. We come humbly, seeking to follow the teachings of Jesus. We give thanks that You surround us with grace and blessing, inviting us to share in the fullness of life. Grant that we hear and speak the truth and do what is right so that our lives may be a blessing to all others. This we ask in Jesus name and pray as He taught us: 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: God knows us and knows our hearts. We must ask our selves if we are intent on doing justice. Do we love mercy and are we ready to walk humbly with God? Let us take a moment of silence to ask for forgives for all those times that we have fallen short of following the teachings of Jesus.

Moment of Silence

All: O God, we confess that we have accepted the wisdom of the world as our guide. We are impressed with and follow those who are in high positions. We measure worth by the number of possessions we own. We have been unkind in our speech and uncaring in our deeds. Forgive us gracious God so that we may begin anew this day. This we ask in Jesus name.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God has forgiven you for all those times you have fallen short of bringing about His kingdom. Go now and live a life of kindness manifested in word and deed. Show mercy to all knowing that God is with you.

***GLORIA PATRI TUNE: GREATOREX**

Glory to the Creator and to the Christ
and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning,
in now and ever shall be.
World without end. Amen. Amen

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM

MISSION POSSIBLE

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalm 15

O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill? Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart; who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbors; in whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honor those who fear the Lord; who stand by their oath even to their hurt; who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be moved.

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:
“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

SERMON “Are You Among the Blessed?”

***HYMN** “Breath on Me Breath of God” NO. 461

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL TO THE OFFERING

God calls us to live lives of mercy and to be peacemakers.
We offer our gifts this day so that this church can continue to nourish all those who come here.

***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)

In thankfulness for all that God has done for us we
dedicate ourselves and the gifts we have given today.
We ask that You bless us and this offering so that this
church may be a beacon of light in the world.

***HYMN**

“Now Thank We All Our Go”

NO. 14

GOING WITH THE WORD

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

On The Calendar

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

Watch The Chosen with us,
February 5 and 12, following worship

Praising God's glory the flowers are given
by Dennis & Marilyn Warner
in memory of loved ones

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Dr. Rev. Rhonda MacLeod, Guest Pastor
Jane Herlihy, Liturgist
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music

All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

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