



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

ORDER OF WORSHIP
First Sunday After Epiphany
January 8, 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: We have been claimed by the God who calls us
children.

All: **As with the Israelites, God promises to pass
with us through the water.**

One: We will not fear, for God is with us!

All: **The rivers shall not overwhelm us for God is
our guide and our protector.**

One: Through God's saving grace, the waters that
tested us are now the waters that wash us and
nourish us.

All: **Great is the fount of every blessing, ever
flowing, ever redeeming, ever claiming us as
God's children. We have come to worship the
God who washes us in grace.**

***HYMN** "Arise, Your Light Is Come!" NO. 231

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

(UNISON)

Holy God, Eternal Spirit, we thank you for baptizing us into one body in Jesus the Christ. Wash over us with your Spirit, that, like Jesus, we may serve you in serving humanity. Baptize us with the fire of your truth, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

The path to authentic renewal is through repentance. In order to become more like Jesus, we must be willing to let him reveal those aspects of our lives which need to be changed. Let us accept the invitation “Come unto me . . .” by gratefully, confidently laying our lives before Christ now.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(UNISON)

Tender Holy God, you have come in Christ to bring forth justice. Yet we confess we have been unjust to others, through seeking justice for ourselves. Your Chosen One nurtures the bruised reed and protects the dim light. Yet we say, “Only the strong survive,” and reject the weakness in ourselves and others. Your Servant does not become discouraged but tirelessly seeks justice on earth. We quickly grow tired and quit trying. Our hope is in you, gracious God. Forgive us and lead us by your hand, that we may show ourselves to be the people who bear Christ’s name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God sent Jesus not to judge us, but to save us. God accepts both our courage and our fears. In the name of Christ, your sins are forgiven. Dare to accept the gift of new beginnings.

***GLORIA PATRI TUNE: GREATOR EX**

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 42:1-9

“Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him,
and he will bring justice to the nations.
He will not shout or cry out,
or raise his voice in the streets.
A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.
In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;
he will not falter or be discouraged
till he establishes justice on earth.
In his teaching the islands will put their hope.”
This is what God the Lord says—
the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out,
who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it,
who gives breath to its people,
and life to those who walk on it:
“I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness;
I will take hold of your hand.
I will keep you and will make you
to be a covenant for the people
and a light for the Gentiles,
to open eyes that are blind,
to free captives from prison
and to release from the dungeon those who sit in dark-
ness.
“I am the Lord; that is my name!
I will not yield my glory to another
or my praise to idols.

See, the former things have taken place,
and new things I declare;
before they spring into being
I announce them to you.”

Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

SERMON “Beloved Children of God ”

***HYMN** “Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart ” NO. 132

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

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.**

CALL TO THE OFFERING

We are reminded of the many ways God interacts with the world in order to meet its many needs. The cycle of life goes on and we are among that forward movement. But more importantly, we are stewards and caretakers of the earth because we are made in God's image. Let us share in that responsibility as we set aside a portion of our resources to fulfill our task as good stewards.

***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)

Gracious God, we ask your blessing on the offerings received - those that remain here and those that travel far - and we ask your blessing on our lives that at every venturing and every homecoming we may be as generous with our spirits as you have been generous with us. Amen.

***HYMN "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" NO. 243**

GOING WITH THE WORD

***BENEDICTION**

May you go out into the world with the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit who abides with you now and forever. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

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On The Calendar

Project Linus, January 10, 9:30–11:30 AM
Council Meeting, January 17, 7:00 PM via zoom
Rummage Sale
Set up, January 19, 6:00 PM
Set up, January 20
Sale: January 21, 8:00 AM–2:00 PM

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. Anne Rodman, Guest Pastor
Loretta Smith, Liturgist
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music

All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

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