



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

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Sixth Sunday After Epiphany
February 12, 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: To his followers, then and now, Jesus said,
“You are the light of the World. Let you light so
shine before all, that they may see your good
works and glorify God.”

All: **We have come together to be community,
to receive light and to be light. To this end we
dedicate ourselves.**

One: We have come together to be windows through
which, instructed and illuminated by God’s
Word, we might see the world more clearly, and
through which the world might know the light and
love of God.

All: **To this end we will praise and worship God.**

*HYMN “Gather Us In” NO. 649

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

(UNISON)

Holy God, we come before you with awe, for you are great in love and power. Some of us come with joy and some come with reluctance, some with sadness and others with fear, yet we know you receive us as we are. Touch us, God, with your healing Spirit. Speak to us through your Word. Send us back into the world renewed and eager to do your will. For this, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

CALL TO CONFESSION

God's love has been shown to us in Jesus Christ, yet we sometimes live as if that made no difference to us. Let us confess to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(Unison)

You are our light, O God. In your presence our way becomes clearer. Like small candles lit from the Christ candle, we can shine with love and hope because of you. Yet we confess to you, O God, that we often hide our light. Not trusting our perceptions, we do not speak our truth. Not trusting our abilities, we do not share our gifts. Fearful, we do not reach out in friendship, we do not raise issues that should be raised, we do not break the silence of anger to give or seek forgiveness. Help us to trust you where we cannot trust ourselves. Radiate through us with your holy love and wisdom, healing the hurts of the past, giving us courage for the future through Jesus Christ, our light. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

This is the good news in Jesus Christ: God loves us more than we love ourselves. God forgives us, encourages us, and frees us to love others. Thanks be to God.

***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

Psalm 112

*(from Psalms for Praying, An Invitation to Wholeness,
by Nan Merrill)*

Matthew 5:13-20

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

SERMON “Shining and Shaken Out”

***HYMN** “Renew Your Church” NO. 462

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER

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.

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Let us put our trust in the living God, who is faithful.
Let us praise God for the abundance of creation in the
sharing of our gifts of time, talents and treasures. Let us
now offer generously back to God what we have been
given and in what is ours to give as we present our
morning offerings.

***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)

Holy One, whose heart abounds with gifts,
receive these offerings as signs of our intentions to live
surrounded by your mercy, inspired by your Spirit,
open to the joy of your presence, hospitable to one
another, and generous toward your world. Amen.

***HYMN** “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service” NO. 581

GOING WITH THE WORD

***BENEDICTION**

(UNISON)

May God bless us and keep us, and may God bless us and
give us away to others. May God’s face shine on us, and
our faces reflect an irresistible good news. May God lift
up everything that is fallen in us, and give us more love,
joy and peace than we alone can hold. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

On The Calendar

You are invited to watch The Chosen with us,
Today following worship

Project Linus, February 14, 9:30–11:30 AM

Rummage Sale Set up, February 16 & 17

Rummage Sale, February 18, 9:00 AM–2:00 PM

Ash Wednesday Service, February 22, 7:00 PM

Praising God's glory the flowers are given by Michael
and Cindy Broderick in memory of loved ones.



PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. Anne Rodman Guest Pastor
Ingrid Howard, Liturgist
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music

All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

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