



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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP
Fifth Sunday After Epiphany
February 5, 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: Our God is a God of power and strength!

Many: God has created each of us with tender care.

One: Our God is a God of majesty and awe!

Many: God walks with each of us every step of the way.

One: Our God is a God of glory and wonder!

Many: God loves each of us with tenderness and passion.

One: Our God calls us each by name.

Many: God calls each of us to unite in worship together!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

(UNISON)

Holy God of glory and majesty, you have called us by name. We pray in these moments for the courage and the strength to answer your call. As we open our ears to hear the story of the presentation of Jesus in the temple, open our hearts also, that we may experience the renewing power of rebirth and recognition in the

Holy Spirit. Inspire us in this time of worship, that we may claim our own identity as your beloved children. We pray in the name of our dear brother and savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*HYMN “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” NO. 96

CALL TO CONFESSION

What God asks of us is to remember the promise: that God will be with us and work in us. Come before God now, ready to be a part of all that is good. Let go of what keeps you from God’s powerful call.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Creator God, we stand amazed at your power and glory. We are eager to worship you and offer our praise, but we are often reluctant to answer when we hear you calling our name. We sing our songs of tribute in the sanctuary, but often not still enough to hear the whisper of your Holy Spirit. Forgive us when we forget your promise to be with us always, O God. Renew us with the power of your ever-present love, and strengthen us to proclaim your justice throughout the world. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Hear the words of our creator, spoken through the prophet Isaiah: “I have called you by name. You are mine. Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.”

*GLORIA PATRI TUNE: GREATORIX

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

Luke 2:21-40

On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived. When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.” The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.” There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. When Joseph and Mary

had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

SERMON "What's in a Name"

***HYMN** "Fairest Lord Jesus" **NO. 123**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

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, so may we share in that responsibility as we set aside a generous 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**

Generous God, we ask your blessing on the offerings received, those that remain here and those that travel far. 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 with us. Amen.

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On The Calendar/Announcements

Watching an episode of the Chosen, today following
Worship, please stay if able.

Rummage Sale, February 18, 9:00 AM–1:00 PM
Help is needed to set up Thursday, Friday and workers
on Saturday

Praising God's glory the flowers are given
by Ray & Lori Dick
in memory of loved ones.



PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. Anne Rodman, Guest Pastor
Peter Ouellette, Liturgist
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music
All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

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