



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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP  
Christmas Eve  
December 24, 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.

**PRELUDE**

**\*GATHERING HYMN**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” No. 182

**\*LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE** *responsively*

L: Tonight Christ is born;  
today salvation has appeared.

**P: Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth!**

L: All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God. Alleluia!

**P: Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Alleluia!**

L: Tonight we light all the Advent candles,  
remembering what each means: Hope, Peace, Joy,  
Love. And now, at last, we light the Christ Candle.  
Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

**P: The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness does not overcome it.**

L: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all!

**All: This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

**ANTHEM**

“Were You There on That Christmas Night?” N. Sleeth

**THE EVENING PRAYER**

*unison*

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the Light of the world. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence, and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**FIRST LESSON**

Isaiah 9:2-7

**CAROL** "Lo! How a Rose E're Blooming" No. 190

**SECOND LESSON**

Luke 2:1-7

**ANTHEM** "Mary, Did You Know?" M. Lowery & B. Greene  
Duet: Dana Dahl & Debra Klingsporn

**THIRD LESSON**

Luke 2:8-20

**CAROL** "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" No. 185

**ANTHEM** "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" Arr. P. Taylor

**THE EVENING OFFERING**

**FOURTH LESSON**

John 1:1-9, 14-16

**ANTHEM** "Dona Nobis Pacem" Arr. H. Hopson

**THE MEDITATION** "Grace Upon Grace"

**\*CAROL** "Joy to the World" No. 179  
vv. 1,2,4

## THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

L: We have beheld Christ's glory,  
glory as of the only Son from the Father.  
P: **In him is life, and the life is the light of all people.**

L: Into every place where your children  
gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus,  
P: **Let your light, shine, O Lord.**

L: Into all the corners of the world, especially where  
hatred and hurt cast their long shadows,  
P: **Let your light shine, O Lord.**

L: Into cathedrals and courtrooms, hospitals and  
homeless shelters, factories and prisons,  
P: **Let your light shine, O Lord.**

L: Where laughter is hearty,  
homes are warm, and comforts are plenty,  
P: **Let your light shine, O Lord.**

L: On those whose pain we know,  
and those living in the shadow of death,  
P: **Let your light shine, O Lord.**

L: On your people of every time and every place, until  
we are raised to the brightness of our heavenly home,  
P: **Let your light shine, O Lord.**

L: Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.  
You bring forth light from darkness.

All: **Almighty God, you fill us with the new light of the  
Word who became flesh and lived among us.  
Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do,  
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

CLOSING CAROL "Silent Night! Holy Night!" No. 186

THE BLESSING

POSTLUDE



Welcome to our Christmas Eve Service,  
we are glad you are here.  
Please join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am.  
Worship Services during the winter months  
are held in the Parish Hall.  
It is a cozy and friendly atmosphere.

Wherever you are on life's journey - you are welcome here

Please join us for refreshments next door after tonight's service

**PARTICIPATING IN TONIGHT'S SERVICE**

Rev. Dr. Gary Klingsporn, Pastor  
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music  
Readers: Kermit Williams, Jeff Gilson,  
Chris Blumm, Stephanie Ouellette, Dana Dahl  
Congregation, Ministers to the World

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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