



*Glory to God  
In The  
Highest*

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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**First Sunday After Christmas**  
**December 31, 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.

**OUR LIFE TOGETHER**  
Words of Welcome and Announcements

**PRELUDE**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** *responsively*

*Hebrews 1:1-2; Isaiah 9:2, 8; John 1:14-16*

L: Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many  
and various ways by the prophets.

P: **But in these last days God  
has spoken to us by a Son.**

L: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.

P: **He is called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Prince of Peace.**

L: The people who walked in darkness have seen  
a great light.

P: **Those who lived in a land of deep darkness –  
on them light has shined.**

L: The Word became flesh and lived among us,  
full of grace and truth.

P: **And from Christ's fullness we have all received,  
grace upon grace.**

L: Let us worship God.

All: **O give thanks to the Lord, who is good,  
whose steadfast love endures forever.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN**      “Joy to the World”      No. 179

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**      *unison*

Eternal God, you have filled the earth with the light of Christ, your incarnate Word. Grant that this light may shine in our hearts and in all that we say and do, so that we may serve others in joy and peace all our days, until at last we see you face to face; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**SILENT PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**HYMN**      “Angels We Have Heard on High”      No. 188

**CALL TO OFFERING**

**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*

For the wondrous gift of life, we give you thanks, O God. You fill the world with beauty, our lives with joy, and our hands with abundance. Bless these gifts we now bring, and use them, that we may share the good news of your grace with others in all that we say and do. Amen.

**ANTHEM**

## THE WORD OF GOD

### The Gospel Reading

Luke 2:22-33

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Joseph and Mary brought the child Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took the child in his arms and praised God saying,

“Master, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.



### *On The Calendar/Announcements*

- Leadership and Committee Reports are due to Leslie Tuttle by January 1
- Church Council Meeting, January 2, 7:00 PM via Zoom
- Church Annual Meeting, January 21—  
following Worship

#### **Sign Up Sheets**

for January Scripture Readers,  
snacks and 2024 Flowers are in the Parish Hall  
on the bulletin board near the coffee.  
Please consider signing up.

#### **Church Office**

Closed Monday, January 1

#### **PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Rev. Dr. Gary Klingsporn, Pastor  
Dana Dahl, Liturgist  
Karen Nelson, Guest Musician  
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music  
Congregation, Ministers to the World

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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#### **Email for Church Administration**

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