

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.

## **SERMON** "What Did You Get for Christmas?"

### SENDING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

unison

Holy God, in the birth of Christ your boundless love for all people shattered the power of darkness. Be born in us with that same love and light, that our song may blend with all the choirs of heaven and earth to the glory of your holy name. Praying now the prayer Jesus taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

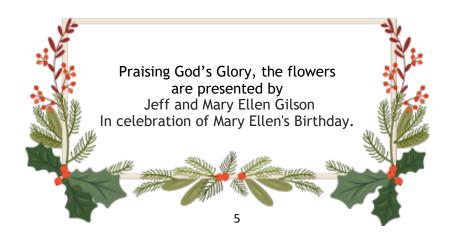
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## \*SENDING HYMN

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear" No. 191

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE



# 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:**

Rev. Dr. Gary Klingsporn Email: <a href="mailto:gklingsporn@comcast.net">gklingsporn@comcast.net</a> Phone: (508) 680-4007

### **Email for Church Administration**

Del Mogavero, 2ccwilton@gmail.com Church Phone Number: 603-654-9045 Website: 2ccwilton.org

The Second Congregational Church in Wilton, United Church of Christ 25 Gregg Street, P. O. Box 246 Wilton, NH 03086

