



*“But I have
promises to keep,*

*And miles to go
before I sleep...”*

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 14, 2024

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** Psalm 100 *responsively*

L: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

P: **Worship God with gladness;
come into God's presence with singing.**

L: Know that the Lord is God.

P: **It is God who made us, and not we ourselves;
we are God's people.**

L: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving.
Give thanks; bless God's name.

All: **For the Lord is good. God's steadfast love endures
forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.**

***GATHERING HYMN**

"O Splendor of God's Glory Bright" No. 144

PRAYER OF THE DAY *unison*

Eternal God, as you proclaimed Jesus your "Beloved" at his baptism, pour out your Spirit upon us, that we may be faithful in our calling as your beloved sons and daughters. By acts of love, mercy, and justice, lead us by your Spirit to share with others the healing power of your grace. Then bring us at last, we pray, to the full vision of your glory. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *unison*

Holy God, in a spirit of repentance we bring our failures in caring, helping, and loving; we bring the pain we have caused others; we bring the injustices in society of which we are a part, to the transforming power of your grace. Forgive us and renew us, that we may walk in the ways you lead us, and do your will, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

A READING Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

HYMN "When Jesus Came to Jordan" No. 241

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*

Holy God, with these gifts we offer ourselves. Here we are, your hands and feet in the world. Help us reach out and serve others with the love you have shown us in Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANTHEM

THE WORD OF GOD

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

SERMON

"Promises to Keep"

HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

BLESSING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

SHARING THE MEAL

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER *unison*

O Christ, you have opened to us the Scriptures, and have been made known to us in the breaking of bread.

Stay with us, we pray, that we may go in the strength of your grace and truth all our journey through, and at its end behold you in the glory of the eternal Trinity, one God forever and ever.

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**

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” No. 248

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

On The Calendar/Announcements

- New Member Meeting/Class with Rev. Gary, today following worship
- Church Council Meeting, January 16, 7:00 PM via zoom—please email your reports to Del by 1:00 PM Monday, January 15.
- Fidget Blankets, January 16, 9:00 AM
- Cribbage/Game Night, January 20, 6:00–8:00 PM
Parish Hall—Help is needed, please speak to Loretta
- New Member Sunday with Church Annual Meeting, January 21, following Worship



Praising God's Glory, the flowers
are presented by
Kevin and Sue Jean in loving memory
of M Patricia Jean

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Gary Klingsporn, Pastor
Jane Herlihy, Liturgist
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music
Congregation, Ministers to the World

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