



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

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22, 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

***LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE** *responsively*

1 John 3:1,18; John 3:16; 1 John 4:11

Our Advent Family: Paul and Ellen Martin and Carver

L: “See what love the Father has given us,
that we should be called children of God;
and that is what we are.”

P: “Let us love, not in word or speech,
but in truth and action.”

L: Today we light the Advent candle of Love,
proclaiming that God loves us.

P: “For God so loved the world that God gave us his
only Son” – a child born by lamplight in the late
night silence.

L: “Since God loved us so much,
we also ought to love one another.”

P: The candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love
now shine into the darkness.

L: Our watching and waiting are almost over.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, fill our hearts with your love.
Make us ready to celebrate your birth, that we
may receive you in joy and serve you always.

***GATHERING HYMN**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” No. 198

***PASSING THE PEACE**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

unison

Light of the World, you came in flesh, born into human pain and joy. Your light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it. Grant us faith, O Christ, as we celebrate your birth, to know your presence with us, and to walk in the way of love. Amen.

MISSION POSSIBLE OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

HYMN

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

No. 185

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, praising you for every blessing in our lives, we thank you for the greatest gift, Jesus. Bless our offering, that your love may be shared with others who are lonely, hurting, or in need of any kind. Amen.

ANTHEM

THE WORD OF GOD

The Old Testament Reading Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest.... For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Gospel Reading Matthew 1:18-23

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”

SERMON “Emmanuel, God with Us”

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD’S PRAYER *unison*

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**

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?”
(See bulletin Insert)

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Praising God’s Glory,
the flowers are presented by
Lori Dick in loving memory of husband Ray



CHURCH PRAYER LIST

For the week of December 22, 2024

Please keep the following persons in your thoughts
and prayers this week:

Janey
Jeff
Jen
Lisa
Don K
Bernie & Rachel
Bill and Olive D
Caitlyn
Jim T
Jeff C
Krista
Charlotte
Cassie W
Sylvie
Tom B
Lorraine

ON THE CALENDAR

- Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24, 7:00 PM
Traditional Service of Lessons and Carols.
- Deacons Meeting - Monday, December 30, 7:00 PM via
zoom

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Today we will be taking the UCC special Christmas Fund offering - This UCC fund cares for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the UCC, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks to lower income retirees. Learn more at pbucc.org
- Sign-up sheet for 2025 flower donations is hanging in the Parish Hall
- Del, our Administrative Assistant, is on vacation and will be returning Monday, December 30th.

The Altar poinsettias have been gifted by the following:

- Rebecca Kennedy in memory of her parents.
- Kevin and Sue Jean in memory of family.
- Christine Dobens in memory of her grandmother Frieda Warren.
- Ingrid Howard in memory of Greg and the Lamminen family.
- Howard and Katie Gotham in memory of loved ones.
- Jane Herlihy in memory of loved ones.
- Paul and Ellen Martin in memory of Lucy Schmidt.
- George and Dana Dahl in memory of loved ones.
- Mike and Cindy Broderick in memory of loved ones.
- Peter and Stephanie Ouellette in memory of family.
- Rebecca Kennedy in memory of her brother Bruce.
- Lamar and Loretta Smith in memory of loved ones.
- David and Joan Jones honoring the church choir.
- Cindy Chalmers in memory of Bill Chalmers.
- Jim and Leslie Tuttle in memory of their parents, Dot and Jack Wood, Jim and Edna Tuttle.
- Reverend Gary and Debra Klingsporn in memory of their friend Linda Hoey.
- Steve and Darcy Bartsch in memory of loved ones.

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

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

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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