



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

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Second Sunday of Advent
December 8, 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 PEACE** *responsively*

Our Advent Family: Jeff and Mary Ellen Gilson

L: Today we light the Advent Candle of Peace.

P: **In a world filled with violence, conflict, war,
and hatred, where there is often no peace,
we prepare to greet the coming One.**

L: We light this candle in the name of Jesus,
the Prince of Peace.

P: **Isaiah said: "His name shall be called Wonderful
Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace."**

L: Prepare the way of the Lord.
Make straight in the wilderness a highway
for our God!

P: **Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low.**

L: Let us prepare our hearts and homes
to receive the One who comes.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus. Come, Prince of Peace.
We wait and watch for you.**

***GATHERING HYMN**

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” No. 156

***PASSING THE PEACE**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

unison

Gracious God, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of your Son Jesus. Stir up our hearts to prepare the way for Jesus’ coming into our lives, that we may be people of peace who live in joy and serve you always. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

HYMN

“Let There Be Peace on Earth” No. 614

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

With these gifts, O God, we seek to accomplish the ministries to which you call us. Guide us to use what we now bring for nurturing faith among us, for the well-being of your church and our community, and for those who are in need. We pray this in Christ’s name. Amen.

ANTHEM

THE WORD OF GOD

The Hebrew Scriptures

Isaiah 40:3-5

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:1-6, 11-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins....

John said to them, "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

SERMON

"In the Wilderness Prepare the Way"

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER

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**

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People” No. 155

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Praising God's Glory,
the flowers are presented by
The Dahl's in honor of Family



CHURCH PRAYER LIST

For the week of December 8, 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
David
Caitlyn
Jim T
Jeff C
Krista
Charlotte
Cassie W
Sylvie
Tom B
Lois
Family and friends of Peder M

ON THE CALENDAR

- Messiah Sing, December 8, 4:00 PM at the Milford United Methodist Church
- Linus Project, December 10, 10:00 AM
- Lay Visitation Group, December 10, 12:00 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Church Council, December 17, 7:00 PM via Zoom

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Cindy Broderick is taking orders for Memorial Poinsettias to be placed in the Church.
Last day to order is December 15
Red or White
 - ⇒ Small - \$5.99
 - ⇒ Medium - \$ 12.99
 - ⇒ Large - \$35.00
- **Our annual Stewardship appeal, “Let Your Light Shine,”** is now underway. If you have not received a stewardship letter and pledge card, please let Mike Degan or Sue Jean know. If you have received your pledge card, please return it to the church by next Sunday, December 15, if possible. Thank you for your generosity and faithful giving!

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

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

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