



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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP  
Epiphany Sunday  
January 5, 2025**

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*

L: Arise, shine, for your light has come!

P: **The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

L: Lift up your eyes and look around!

P: **Then we shall see and be radiant,  
and our hearts shall rejoice.**

L: Christ our Savior is born: the Messiah, the Lord.

P: **The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness does not overcome it.**

L: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving.

**All: Let us make a joyful noise to God  
with songs of praise.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN** "The First Noel" No. 229  
vv. 1-3, 5-6

**\*PASSING THE PEACE**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*unison*

Gracious God, as you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star, lead us by faith to know your presence in our lives. As your light shone in the life of Jesus, so shine in us, that we may be light in the world. Grant that we may be people of truth, justice, and compassion, doing deeds of mercy and love, until at last we see the full vision of your glory, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**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*

Loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. This morning we bring our gifts in worship and praise. As you have blessed us, let these gifts be a blessing to others, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**ANTHEM**

## THE WORD OF GOD

### The Hebrew Scriptures

Isaiah 60:1-3

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

### The Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

SERMON "Arise, Shine!"  
HYMN "As with Gladness" No. 236

### HOLY COMMUNION

BLESSING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

SHARING THE MEAL

THE 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 "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" No. 185

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

"The Work of Christmas"  
Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flock,  
the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost, to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among all people,  
to make music in the heart.

## CHURCH PRAYER LIST

For the week of January 5, 2025

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  
Regina K  
Joe  
Courtney  
John S

## ON THE CALENDAR

- Making Fidget Blankets - Tuesday, January 7, 9:00 AM

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please consider signing up for Flowers, reading Scripture or Coffee Hour Snacks - sign-up sheets in the Parish Hall.
- The Church Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 19 after worship service.



**PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

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

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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