



Love

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 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

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

Isaiah 40:3; John 3:16; 1 John 4:11
Joe and Liz Torre

L: A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

P: **In the wilderness places of our lives, we gather to make ready for the One who is coming.**

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.**

THE WORD OF GOD

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."

The Epistle Reading

1 John 3:1; 4:7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are....
Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

SERMON

"Love"

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

Poinsettias are presented by

- Rachel Doehner given in memory of her husband Bernie.
- Christine Dobens given in memory of her Grandmother Frieda Warren.
- Ingrid Howard given in memory of the Lamminen family.
- Rachel Kennedy given in memory of her sister Rebecca Kennedy.
- Karen Hartz given in honor of Debra and Reverend Gary Klingsporn.
- Debra and Gary Klingsporn given in honor of God.
- Elaine Goddard given in memory of honor of family.
- Lori Dick given in memory of loved ones.
- Jane Herlihy given in memory of loved ones.
- Sue and Kevin Jean in memory of family and friends.
- Stephanie and Peter Ouellette in memory of loved ones.
- Dana and George Dahl in honor of family.
- Liz and Joe Torre in memory of loved ones.
- Cindy and Mike Broderick in memory of loved ones.
- Mike Degan in memory of his wife Deb.
- Cindy Chalmers in memory of her husband Bill Chalmers.
- Cindy Chalmers in honor of her grandchildren Jack and Lily.
- Marilyn Henderson in memory of loved ones.



On The Calendar/Announcements

- Christmas Eve Service - Wednesday, December 24, 7:00 PM
- Deacon's Meeting - Monday, December 29, 7:00 PM via Zoom

Today we will be accepting the UCC offering: The Christmas Fund - please use the envelope in bulletin for your gift.

For over one hundred years, The Christmas Fund has provided direct financial assistance to United Church of Christ ministers, church workers, and their families. Last year, over 1,800 congregations joined together to secure the physical, financial, and spiritual health of those engaged in the life of the Church. Donating to The Christmas Fund this year ensures more ministers, church workers, and their families receive the loving support of the Church in their moment of deepest need

We continue to collect items for Open Cupboard Food Pantry - below is a list of most needed items
Laundry Detergent, Shampoo & Conditioner, Crackers,
Fruit Juices & Canned Fruit, Spaghetti Sauce and Tuna

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Praising God's Glory
the flowers are presented by
Mike and Cindy Broderick
in memory of loved ones



CHURCH PRAYER LIST

For the week of December 21, 2025
Please keep the following persons
in your thoughts and prayers this week:

Laura (Katie)
Andie
Haley T's mom
Phoebe C
Susan H
Judy
Ted R
Sookie
Kent
Ellen M
Robin J
Frank A
Seraphin
Kenny
Barbara
Henry L
Abby
Levi
Mary Ellen
Diane
Malcom
Ted W
Ryan

Sandy B
Leslee S & Ashley C
Martha & Lou
John S
Donna S
Mary Sue
James P
Marsha
Jerry S
John H
Bob M
Matt S
Jen
Don K
Caitlyn
Jim T
Lorraine
Courtney
Diane
Carol K
Kathy & Dennis F
Janet



PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Gary Klingsporn, Pastor
Debra Klingsporn, Liturgist
Joe and Liz Torre, Advent Readers
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music
All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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

