



# Holding the Child

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

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Sunday after Epiphany  
January 11, 2026

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**

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

No. 198

#### **\*PASSING THE PEACE**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*unison*

Eternal God, from the majesty of heaven to the poverty of a stable, your light shines forth in the birth of the Christ child. Grant that in this new year we may know your presence, see your love at work, and walk in the light of your grace, serving those around us by living lives of compassion, justice, and peace. Amen.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**HYMN**

“Arise, Your Light Is Come!”

No. 231

**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 give thanks to you for all the gifts with which you have blessed us. Bless these gifts we now bring for the work of this church and the benefit of those in need. Clothe us with compassion, kindness, humility, and meekness, that we may be servants of Christ to others. Amen.

**ANTHEM**

## THE WORD OF GOD

### The Gospel Reading

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

**SERMON** "Holding the Child"

**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**

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

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

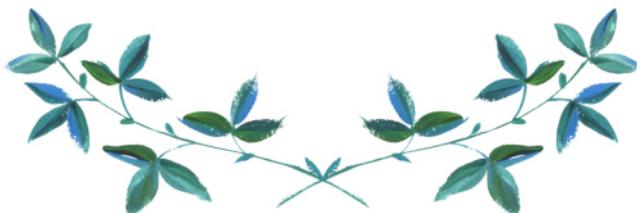
## On The Calendar/Announcements

- **Linus Project**, Tuesday, January 13, 10:00 AM
- **Lay Visitation**, Tuesday, January 13, Noon
- **Books, Puzzles and Games “Rummage” Sale** - Saturday, January 17 - please sign up if you can help for a few hours
- **Church Annual Meeting** - Sunday, January 25, following Worship, Lunch is being served by the Missions Group

**There are still openings for Flowers for 2026 -**  
sign-up sheet located on bulletin board near coffee pot



Praising God's Glory  
the flowers are presented by  
Peter and Stephanie Ouellette  
in celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary



## CHURCH PRAYER LIST

For the week of January 11, 2026  
Please keep the following persons  
in your thoughts and prayers this week:

Phyllis  
Laura (Katie)  
Andie  
Haley T's mom  
Phoebe C  
Susan H  
Judy  
Sookie  
Kent  
Ellen M  
Robin J  
Frank A  
Seraphin  
Kenny  
Barbara  
Henry L  
Abby  
Levi  
Mary Ellen  
Diane  
Malcom  
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  
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music  
All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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