



Sunday, January 12, 2025

Katie Walsh, M. Div, LICSW, Guest Preacher

**First Congregational Church
Wilmot, New Hampshire**

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome!*

An Open & Affirming and Racial Justice United Church of Christ
Gathered in 1829

**P.O. Box 204, Wilmot 03287 (Located at 19 N. Wilmot Road
(603) 526-7715 www.wilmotucc.org**

ORDER OF WORSHIP
November January 12, 2025

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Prelude Music

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

A Time of Silence to Center Ourselves

GOING DEEPER

*** Call to Worship**

L: Come, beloved of God, to remember who you are and whose you are.

P: God in Christ, has named us all “Beloved.”

L: Yes, here and now, God’s heaven of love is being poured out anew.

P: May this motion of the Holy One, shape our hearts and minds.

L: May it brighten the Epiphany light in us and the whole creation.

P: And may it shape our words and work into good news for the world!

***Opening Hymn “Creator of the Stars of Night”**

Chalice #127

**1 Creator of the stars of night,
your people’s everlasting light,
O Christ, redeemer of us all,
we pray you, hear us when we call.**

**2 To you the deep travail was known
that made the whole creation groan.
You came, O Savior, to set free
your own in glorious liberty.**

3 When this old world drew on toward night,

**you came, but not in splendor bright,
not as a monarch, but the child
of Mary, blame-less mother mild.**

**4 At your great name, O Jesus,
now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
all things on earth with one accord,
like those in heaven shall call you Lord.**

Call to Confession

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what
we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole
heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are
truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son
Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may
delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your
Name. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Receive the good news: the Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger
and abounding in steadfast love. As far as the east is from the west, so far
does he remove our transgressions from us. In Jesus Christ, we are
forgiven.

Passing of the Peace of Christ

GOD'S WORD TO US

Scripture reading

Matthew 2:13-23

Sermon

“How does Goodness Survive?”

Katie Walsh

Hymn

“What Child is This”

Chalice #162

**1 What child is this, who, laid to rest
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?**

Refrain:

**This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
haste, haste to bring him laud
the babe, the son of Mary.**

**2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading: [Refrain]**

**3 So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,
come, rich and poor, to own him,
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him. [Refrain]**

TIME OF PRAYER

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**Our * 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 debts as we forgive our
debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.
Amen**

**and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, the scorned, the lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**3 Jesus is our childhood's pattern;
day by day like us he grew,
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
Thus he feels for our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.**

**4 And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child who seemed so helpless,
lives and reigns in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.**

***Closing Circle and Commissioning One Another**

**Go into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good
courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for
evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the
afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the
power of the Holy Spirit.**

***Sung Response “Spirit of the Living God” #259 Chalice**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

***Benediction**

Katie Walsh

Postlude

*** *Please stand if you are able***

We are grateful to have Katie Walsh back once again to lead worship today. Katie lives in Acworth, NH, with her husband Kurt, 10-month-old baby Jack, and two golden retrievers. She holds dual degrees in Divinity and Social Work; while she is a social worker by day, she serves as a Deacon in her local church and occasionally preaches. Katie is a former student of Nan DeVries and is delighted to be in Wilmot this morning!

Acknowledgement: Our worship service takes place on N'dakinna, the traditional ancestral homeland of the Abenaki, Penacook and Wabanaki Peoples past and present. We acknowledge and honor with gratitude the land and waterways and the people who have stewarded N'dakinna throughout the generations.

Upcoming Events and Meetings This Week

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|------------------------------|--|
| Sunday, January 12 | 10:00 am – Worship in person & on zoom 11:15 am – Coffee Hour |
| Wednesday, January 15 | 2:00 pm – Choir Practice |
| Thursday, January 16 | 12:00 pm – Senior Lunches 6 pm – AA meeting in Fellowship Hall 7:00 pm – Green Team Meeting |
| Sunday, January 19 | 10:00 am – Worship in person & on zoom 11:30 am – Pot Luck Brunch - Meet and Greet Rev. Rachele Eaton |

Staff and Leadership

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Ministers | Members and Friends of the Congregation |
| Music Director | Donna Reade |
| Moderator | Charlie Foss |
| Clerk | Bob Evans |
| Religious Education Director | Nancy Allenby |
| Deacon of the Month | Bethany Balford |

Music Attributions

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