

First Congregational Church Wilmot

An Open & Affirming Racial Justice Congregation
Of the United Church of Christ
Gathered in 1829

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

Order of Worship
First Sunday in Advent
November 29, 2026

Rev. Rachelle Eaton, Minister
Elaine Cox, Music Director

MORNING WORSHIP November 29, 2026

A TIME OF GATHERING AND SHARING

Prelude

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Bringing of the Light of Christ

A Time of Silence to Center Ourselves

Our worship service is taking 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.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE (THE TURNING OF THE HEART)

"And Mary said: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed." — Luke 1:46–48

Today, we light the first candle of Advent: **the Candle of Hope**. The song of Mary reminds us that God looks upon the lowly, the forgotten, and the brokenhearted with special favor. Though we look around the world and see so much injustice and suffering, we believe in God's promises of salvation. In our nights of fear and doubt, we know just one candle can light the way, so we turn our hearts toward hope.

Light the first candle

Prayer: God of the turning tide, wipe away our tears. Kindle in us a holy hope that refuses to settle for the world as it is. As we light this candle, prepare our hearts to step into your light. Amen.

Song: Canticle of the Turning **Verse 1 (insert)**

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
That the God of my heart is great
And my spirit sings of the Wondrous things
That you bring to the ones who wait
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight
And my weakness you did not spurn
So from east to west shall my name be blest
Could the world be about to turn?
My heart shall sing of the day you bring
Let the fires of your justice burn
Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near
And the world is about to turn!

INVOCATION

God of justice and peace,
from the heavens you rain down mercy and kindness,
that all on earth may stand in awe and wonder
before your marvelous deeds.
Raise our heads in expectation,
that we may yearn for the coming day of the Lord
and stand without blame before your Son, Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

***HYMN** **"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"** **Chalice #119**

1 O come, O come Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

2 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's deep shadows put to flight. (Refrain)

3 O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things, far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and cause us in her ways to go. (Refrain)

4 O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace. (Refrain)

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Readings Isaiah 64:1-4, Mark 13:24-37

Reflection Rev. Rachelle Eaton

***HYMN "Keep Awake, Be Always Ready" NCH #112**

1. Keep awake, be always ready,
   God's time approaches sure and steady,
   God's strength will keep your heart from blame.
   Clouds, the Spirit's light concealing,
   Disperse, God's purest light revealing;
   Creation will its Sovereign name.
   Dry branches burst forth green,
   God's advent signs are seen:
   Hallelujah!
   Christ's judgment won, God's will be done;
   God's new dominion thus begun.

2. Rise and shine for One is coming
   Whose love will quench all nature's thirsting
   To be made whole forever more.
   On that day to end all weeping,
   Death's swords transformed to tools of reaping,
   The God of might will mercy pour.
   Incarnate, God appears embracing all our tears:
   Hallelujah!
   God's majesty eternally revealed to set the cosmos free.

MORNING PRAYERS

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer followed by 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

**We have come to know God by many different names and images. Please use the one which speaks from your heart today.(e.g. Father, Mother, Creator, God…)*

Prayer Response "O Lord Hear My Prayer"

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer.
When I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me. (Repeat 3x)

THE GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

Doxology** *To the tune of O Come, O Come Emmanuel* ***Chalice # 119

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to us
And with all people dwell.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

***HYMN "Comfort, Comfort You My People " Chalice #122**

1. Comfort, comfort you my people,
   Tell of peace, thus says our God.
   Comfort those who sit in darkness,
   Bowed beneath oppression's load.
   Speak you to Jerusalem
   Of the peace that waits for them,
   Tell them that their sins I cover,
   And their warfare now is over.

2. For the herald's voice is calling
   In the desert far and near,
   Bidding us to make repentance,
   Since the reign of God is here.
   Oh, that warning cry obey!
   Now prepare for God a way;
   Let the valleys rise in meeting
   And the hills bow down in greeting.

3. Make you straight what long was crooked,
   Make the rougher places plain;
   Let your hearts be true and humble,
   As befits God's holy reign.
   For the glory of our God
   Now o'er earth is shed abroad;

And all flesh shall see the token
That God's Word is never broken.

***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 "Prepare the Way of the Lord" Chalice #121**

Prepare the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
And all people will see the salvation of our God. (Repeat 3x)

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

HANGING OF THE GREENS

****

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Thursday, December 3	**11:30 am**Wilmot Ladies Aid
	6:00 pm - **-** AA Men's Beginners Big Book Step Meeting
Sunday, December 6	**Worship with Communion**
Tuesday, December 8	**1:00 pm –** Church Council
Thursday, December 10	**6:00 pm** - **-** AA Men's Beginners Big Book Step Meeting
Sunday, December 13	**Worship –** Christmas Pageant
	Caroling After Worship

Celebrate Advent, and Christmas at First Congregational Church Wilmot

2nd Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 6th - 10:00 AM - Worship with Communion

3rd Sunday in Advent - Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 13th - 10:00 AM

Caroling After Worship



4th Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 20th - 10:00 AM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Thursday, December 24th - 5:00 PM

19 N. Wilmot Road, Wilmot 03287 Phone: 603-526-7715
Mailing address: P.O. Box 204, Wilmot, NH 03287

First Congregational Church Staff and Officers

Ministers: Members and Friends of the Congregation
Settled Minister: Rev. Rachelle Eaton
Moderator: Bob Evans
Clerk: Open Position
Director of Music: Elaine Cox
Deacon of the Month: December: Marie MacDonald
Religious Ed Director: Nancy Allenby
Secretary: Mary Heath

ATTRIBUTIONS:
Invocation reproduced from Revised Common Lectionary Prayers © 2002 Consultation on Common Texts admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used with permission
Keep Awake, Be Always Ready" words by Arthur G. Clyde, 1993.
"Restless Weaver". Words by O. I. Cricket Harrison, ©1995 Chalice Press. All rights reserved. Harmonization by Ronald A. Nelson, ©1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
"Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow". Words adapted by William B. Abernethy, @ 1995 The Pilgrim Press. All rights reserved.
"Prepare the Way of the Lord"
Music by Jacques Berthier and the Community of Taize, 1984. ©1984 Les Presses de Taise; used by permission of GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.
"Canticle of the Turning"
Words and Music (Star of the County Down) adapt. Rory Cooney. ©1990 by GIA Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Reprinted/Podcast/Streamed/Recorded Audio with Permission under One License #A-742000.
Used with Permission. CCLI Church Copyright License Number: 22643989 and Streaming License Number 22643972.

First Congregational Church Wilmot
Rev. Rachelle Eaton, Settled Pastor
Wilmotucc.org 19 North Wilmot Rd., Wilmot, NH 603-526-7715