



CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2020

WILTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



# WELCOME

## WILTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 24, 2020

CHRISTMAS EVE

We are glad that you found us and that you are here. We are a progressive, welcoming and inclusive congregation seeking both to know Christ and to make Christ known to people from all walks of life. We pray that we will become better acquainted with you.

**Welcome**

Rev. Shannon White

**Introit**

*We Believe... Even Now*

WPC Choir

**Advent Wreath Lighting: ~ *Christ Candle***

The Rowe Family

**Responsive Call to Worship**

Leader: Come, come away, come away today to Bethlehem.

**People: Come adore on bended knee, One whose birth the angels sing.**

Leader: Come with wonder, come with awe. Take your place among the sheep and cattle.

**All: Sing with joy, praise God, for the time of promise has come. Sing the good news of Emmanuel—God with us! The Christ has come!**

Leader: Come, come away, come today to Bethlehem.

**Opening Hymn** ♦ #133

*O Come, All Ye Faithful (Verses 1, 3, 4)*

**Unison Prayer of Illumination**

**Incarnate God, the shepherds of old were full of Your praises, proclaiming that all they had heard and seen was just as the angels had said it would be. Move among us now, that we, too, might hear and experience the wonder and joy of the living Word as we seek to welcome Him into our lives. Amen.**

**First Reading**

The Visitation  
Luke 1: 26-35 (NRSV)

Brandon Bone

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

**Carol ♦ #143**

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory (verse 1 only)*

**Second Reading**

The Birth  
Luke 2: 1-7

Shelby Connor

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**Carol ♦ #115**

*Away in a Manger (all 3 verses)*

**Third Reading**

The Angels  
Luke 2: 8-14

Greyson Richards

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,  
"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

**Carol ♦ #119**

*Hark the Herald Angels Sing (all 3 verses)*

**Fourth Reading**

The Shepherds  
Luke 2:15-20

Stephen Stewart

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## Christmas Message

### Anthem

*O Holy Night*  
Arr. Mark Hayes

Sarah Pfisterer and Rick Hilsabeck

### Christmas Prayer

### Carol ♦ #122

*Silent Night (all 4 verses)*

*We invite you to light a candle and share the light*

### Fifth Reading

The Word Became Flesh  
John 1:1-5, 14

John Celentano

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

### Responsive Benediction

Leader: I invite you to raise your candle high for the Benediction:  
We wait for justice

**People: but we do not wait to work for change;**

Leader: We wait for restored health

**People: but we do not wait to work to heal;**

Leader: We wait for wholeness

**People: but we do not wait to work at binding brokenness;**

Leader: We wait for peace

**People: but we do not wait to work to eliminate hatred.**

Leader: And so, my friends, like bells ringing out the news that Christ is born among us, fill the night left by sadness with messages of hope, love, joy, and peace. Go into your lives humming the tunes that keep that light alive in you and that spur you on in your work of justice and reconciliation.

Raise your voices and repeat after me...

"do not be afraid!"

**All: "do not be afraid!"**

### Carol ♦ #134

*Joy to the World! (Verses 1, 2, and 4)*

*Please extinguish your candles*

*Merry Christmas!*

# A Moment of Thanks

Many thanks to our participants today!



## **WILTON PRESBYTERIAN STAFF**

Pastor  
Family Ministry Director, Pre-K-12<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Director of Music  
Office Administrator

REV. SHANNON WHITE  
JULIE FOWLER  
ZACHARY WRIGHT  
CAROLYN PARKER

[shannon.white@wiltonpresbyterian.org](mailto:shannon.white@wiltonpresbyterian.org)  
[julie.fowler@wiltonpresbyterian.org](mailto:julie.fowler@wiltonpresbyterian.org)  
[zachary.wright@wiltonpresbyterian.org](mailto:zachary.wright@wiltonpresbyterian.org)  
[wpchurch@wiltonpresbyterian.org](mailto:wpchurch@wiltonpresbyterian.org)

## **WEPCO**

Facilities Coordinator  
Facilities Custodian

SANDY MUSCHLER  
MAX GIL

[wepco@optonline.net](mailto:wepco@optonline.net)



### **SESSION**

### **DEACONS**

#### **Class of 2020**

John Burgdorfer  
Jessica Jones

#### **Class of 2020**

Margaret Carkner  
David Hull  
Jennifer Gabrielson  
Barbara Martin

#### **Class of 2021**

Buck Burnaman  
Forrest Close  
Berta Hull (*Clerk*)  
Jason Rice

#### **Class of 2021**

Dee King  
Tom Schneider  
Becky Shroyer  
Cathy Thomas

#### **Class of 2022**

Patty Connor  
John Stewart  
Jock Wright

#### **Class of 2022**

Rachelle Bernabei  
Sally Carta  
Virgil Roberson  
Liz Archibald



## **Wilton Presbyterian Church**

48 New Canaan Road ~ Wilton, Connecticut 06897  
[www.wiltonpresbyterian.org](http://www.wiltonpresbyterian.org) ~ (203) 762.5514