



## Welcome to Wilton Presbyterian Church

January 16, 2022 ~ 10:00 AM

### RENEWAL OF BAPTISM

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.

## PREPARING

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God of grace and glory, you call us with your voice of flame to be your people, faithful and courageous. As your beloved Son embraced his mission in the waters of baptism, inspire us with the fire of your Spirit to join in his transforming work. Nourish our endeavors by the waters of our baptism. Engraft us into Christ's body in order that we may branch out with green shoots. Feed us with life above the mundane, with freshness and vitality; with echoes of love promises of hope; a vibrant sensitivity that deepens our roots and causes us to reach for the heavens.

### PRELUDE

*Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters*  
Arr. Charles Callahan

Zachary Wright

## GATHERING

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

This is a new day! Today, put aside all fear. Leave dismay behind. Take courage in God's loving call.

**Christ has called us from behind the locked doors of fear... away from storms that threaten... beyond the reign of chaos.**

Christ has called us away from timid proclamation... into bold professions of faith.

**Crist has called us... to be new people... bold and loving... filled with Spirit and Grace.**

*Rejoice with songs of praise, giving thanks to God.*

\* OPENING HYMN #482

*Baptized in Water*

When this symbol (\*) precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit

## THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

Jason Rice

**Merciful God, in baptism you promised forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from sisters and brothers in Christ. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show a reluctance to welcome one another. We allow the past to hold us hostage. In your loving kindness, have mercy upon us, and free us from sin. Remind us of the promises we have made in baptism, so that we may rise to new life and live together in your grace.**

*(A time for silent and personal confession)*

## ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND ASSURANCE (RESPONSIVE)

It's over – last year is gone. Our words, our thoughts, our deeds are in the past. Today, we begin anew. Today, and every day, God offers us life and hope.

**We come to the water. We remember we are named. Claimed.**

The heavens open. The Spirit descends.

***Here, now, forever – we are forgiven and healed. From this time forward, let us live as such people.***

*(Children and youth are invited to the front of the sanctuary during the response)*

## \* THE GLORIA #582

*Glory to God,  
Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

## PROCLAIMING

### CALL FOR OFFERING

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** *I was There to Hear Your Borning Cry*  
John C. Ylvisaker

I was there to hear your borning cry; I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold. I was there when you were but a child with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell. When you heard the wonder of the Word, I was there

to cheer you on. You were raised to praise the living Lord to whom you now belong. If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk 'till rising sun. In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young, I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun. When the evening gently closes in, and you shut your weary eyes, I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise. I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

### **\*DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures high and low;  
Give thanks to God in love made known;  
Creator, Word and Spirit One. Amen.**

### **\* THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)**

Becky Shroyer

**God of Love and Mercy, You call us to be Your people; You gift us with Your abundant grace. Make us a holy people, radiating the fullness of Your Love. Form us into a community, a people who care, expressing Your compassion. May these gifts be used to serve you. Remind us day after day of our baptismal call to serve with joy and courage. Teach us how to grow in wisdom and grace and joy in Your presence. Through Jesus and in Your Spirit, we make this prayer. Amen.**

### **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Isaiah 43: 1-3; 18-19

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

## NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:17-18

Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;

## SERMON

*God's Gift of a Fresh Start*

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Weenink

## RESPONSE

*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

Ken Medema

## RESPONDING

### A RESPONSIVE RENEWAL OF BAPTISM (RESPONSIVE)

As at the first creation, God calls us from chaos and darkness into the light of birth.

**“The voice of the Lord is upon the waters,” calling us to be immersed in the Spirit, as those baptized into grace and reborn in mercy.**  
*From the boundless river of God's grace we are buoyed by unending streams of mercy, love and grace.*

### APOSTLE'S CREED (UNISON)

Do you believe in God the Father?

**We believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**



*Thank you for joining Wilton Presbyterian Church for worship.*

We invite you to support the mission and ministry of WPC. **To donate, you may visit <https://onrealm.org/WiltonPresbyterian/-/give/now> or you may mail a check to Wilton Presbyterian Church, 48 New Canaan Rd., Wilton, CT 06897.**

Arrangements can be made to establish an EFT. Contact Mark Bohrer at [wiggins306@yahoo.com](mailto:wiggins306@yahoo.com)

## EPIPHANY

**Epiphany** is a church season running from **January 6** to **Ash Wednesday**. Originating in the Eastern Church, it focuses upon three mysteries:

- (1) the incarnation, God's coming to us in Christ;
- (2) the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River; and
- (3) Jesus' first miracle, the changing of water into wine at the wedding in Cana.

Together these portray the way God manifested to the world in Christ. The word epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning "manifestation" or "showing forth." The first day of this season is called "The Feast of Epiphany" and represents the time when Christians first celebrated the birth of Jesus. As noted earlier, it was some time later that **December 25** was set as the date for this celebration. The season celebrates the "showing forth" to the Wisemen, and hence to all gentiles, of Christ as Lord. The liturgical color for the Feast of Epiphany is white, signifying light; and for the balance of the season, green, the color of nature, signifying the universal redemption Christ brought to the world.

## WORSHIP SERVICE OF RENEWAL AND REDEDICATION

A unique intergenerational worship and learning experience revolving around the sacraments is set for **January 16**. As Baptism is central to our lives in Christ, it is appropriate for us to be reminded of the significance of Baptism and to renew our Baptismal commitments. Baptism, as ordained by Christ, is the Word made visible. It sets forth the grace of God in Jesus Christ and affirms that believers and their children are heirs of the covenant of grace. It is a consecration to the new life in Christ, which means faithful service, obedience, and participation in the joy and victory of the resurrection. Baptism is both God's act and the people's response. In it, God proclaims again the gospel and reassures the community of faith of the judging, forgiving, and redeeming love in Christ. By the work of the Holy Spirit, God marks as adopted children those who are baptized, enabling them to accept forgiveness through repentance, to affirm their new identity as members of Christ's body, and to show themselves to be the Lord's in ministry to others. Begin the New Year right with your family of faith in a time of renewal, reaffirmation and rededication.

## WILTON PRESBYTERIAN STAFF

Pastor  
Family Ministry Director, Pre-K-Grade 12  
Office Administrator  
Director of Music

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## WEPCO

Facilities Coordinator  
Facilities Custodian

ANDREW AREVALO [wepco@optonline.net](mailto:wepco@optonline.net)  
MAX GIL

<b>SESSION</b>	<b>DEACONS</b>
<u>Class of 2022</u> Bryan Campbell Forrest Close Patty Connor Jason Rice Jock Wright	<u>Class of 2022</u> Rachelle Bernabei Becky Shroyer
<u>Class of 2023</u> Cathy Ratcliffe Reshan Richards Alison Wood	<u>Class of 2023</u> Patti Dormer Julie Stein Ann White Marianne Wilson
<u>Class of 2024</u> Sam Halsey Gail Schneider  <i>Berta Hull (Clerk)</i>	<u>Class of 2024</u> Susan Stofega <i>Cathy Thomas (moderator)</i>

## **Wilton Presbyterian Church**

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