

## **Wilbraham United Church**

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ  
and the United Methodist Church*

**500 Main Street Wilbraham MA 01095**

Phone: (413)596-2511 Fax: (413)596-2512

*Wilbraham United Church*  
"I am the vine, you are the branches."

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Website: [www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](http://www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/WilbrahamUnitedChurch](https://facebook.com/WilbrahamUnitedChurch)

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### **GATHERING MUSIC AND WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Tim Timpson**

Leader: A voice in the wilderness calls out:

**People: "Prepare the way of the Lord!"**

Leader: Make the road straight and smooth, a highway fit for our God.

**People: "Prepare the way of the Lord!"**

Leader: Fill in the valleys and level the hills. Smooth the ruts and clear the rocks.

**People: "Prepare the way of the Lord!"**

**\*GATHERING HYMN #213 (red hymnal)    *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates***

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND LORD'S PRAYER**

**Holy God, you have sent us prophets and we have plugged up our ears and turned away from them. We have drowned out your call with our shouting. We have chosen the path of our own selfishness rather than pursue the straight and narrow of your will. Forgive us for our refusal to listen to those who announce your presence. Forgive us when we ignore the cries that come from the wilderness. Help us live into our baptisms, remembering your call to repentance and the nearness of your coming kingdom. Hear us as we join in the prayer that Jesus taught us:**

***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.***

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

### **LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

**Driscoll Family**

Reader 1: In a world of war, violence and abuse, where families live in shelters and children grow up in fear, God, we call upon you to come.

Reader 2: In a world where peace seems to be so far away, we call upon you, Prince of Peace, to come.

Reader 1: In this season of Advent, we wait for the coming of Peace into our world. We await the birth of Emmanuel, God with us, who comes into our lives in a new way.

Reader 2: Come, Messiah. Come, and Save Us.

*Light the second purple candle*

**All: Dear God, we pray for the peace that only you can bring through your Son, Jesus the Christ. May we walk in the paths of peace. Amen.**

### **\*SONG OF PRAISE #207**

***Prepare the way of the Lord, Prepare the way of the Lord,  
and all people will see the salvation of our God.***

### **\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **FIRST LESSON**

**Luke 1:68-79**

‘Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.’

The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

## **GOSPEL**

**Luke 3:1-6**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” ’

One: Our God is still speaking.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## **SERMON**

**Pastor Chip**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer  
Sung Response #204

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.  
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.*

## OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

**\*Doxology**

*What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man. I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Page 15 (UMH)

Invitation

**Prayer**

Breaking the Bread

Sharing the Meal

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**God of pregnant expectations, God of Christmas promise, God of child-like hope, we thank you for the opportunity to eat and drink from your table. May the eating and the drinking fill us with hope in a world of despair. May we be beacons of hope as we wait for the day when the world will be changed. Grant that this taste of your banquet which is to come would give us the hunger for peace and justice in our community and around the world. Amen.**

**\*PARTING HYMN #2089** (black book)

*Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

## FOLLOWING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

## MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH

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*\* All who are able to stand, may do so.*

*The altar flowers this morning are given to the Glory of God by Kathy and Tim Timpson celebrating their family and loved ones at this joyous season.*

***Welcome Visitors!*** *Is this your first visit to United Church? Please sign our Guest Pad located in the Narthex. Immediately after the service, we invite you to continue down the central hallway and join us for Fellowship and Refreshment in our Fellowship Hall.*

### **MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY**

**Senior Pastor:** The Rev. Wallace A Hurd IV

**Associate Pastor:** The Rev. Paul Nesbit

**Interim Music Director:** Roberta Morkin

**Technical and Artistic Director:** Deb Trimble

**Ushers:** Taylor and John Colkos

**Greeters:** Edna Colcord



***Please Pray For:*** The Balatico Family, Kathy Wheatley, Alice Belsky, Ross Karlson, Audrey Hunt, Helene Pickett, Bill and Ellen and the Gatchell family, Tim and family, Theresa Munn, Herb Vieira, Kathy and family, Daniel, Catherine, Lynne, Terry, Ray, Theresa, Ann, Jane Godfrey, Shey McAbee, Sharon McAbee, Patti Keiser, Sue Pereira, Bev Sawyer, Kathie Birkhaeuser. The victims of violence and their families in our country. Our troops, our country and our world.



**To contact the church, please email:**

**Aimee Walat**, Administrative Assistant ([admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org))

**Pastor Chip** ([pastor@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:pastor@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org))

**Rev. Paul** ([christianed@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:christianed@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org))



### **"News for the Pews" for the Week of December 5, 2021**

**The Holly Fair** is coming December 11th! This is our Church's largest fundraiser and we need everyone's help to make it a success! We need volunteers for the Cookie Walk, Bakers, Raffle, Lug Nuts, Furniture Moving, Holly Café, and more! Where can YOU help? Please contact Kim Ryan at [WUChurchEvents@gmail.com](mailto:WUChurchEvents@gmail.com) or 519-6335. There is also be a sign up board in the main hallway. Thank you!

**The Old Meeting House Museum**, 450 Main Street, invites you to its annual Festival of Trees and Wreaths Raffle today from 2:00-5:00pm. The event includes mulled cider, baked treats, and Holiday Spirit. The Gift Shop will be open, the event is free and open to the public.

**The Discipleship Commission** will be asking for donations to benefit the global nonprofit organization Heifer International on Sundays in December. Heifer International works to reduce poverty and hunger through holistic community development. This includes distributing animals as well training to families in need around the world as a means of providing self-sufficiency. Discipleship will match up to \$1000 in donations. Please join us after church on December 5th, 12th, or the 19<sup>th</sup> to support this cause!

## **This Week at Wilbraham United Church**

### **Monday, December 6**

**10am** Piecemakers–Bliss Room

**6:30pm** Al Anon–Youth Room

**7pm** Finance–Library

### **Tuesday, December 7**

**10am** Yoga–Youth Room

**3:30-5:00pm** Office Hours w/Rev. Paul

**7:15pm** Bible Study Happy Hour–Zoom

### **Wednesday, December 8**

**10am-2pm** Office Hours w/Pastor Chip

**6:30pm** Al Anon – Youth Room

**6:30pm** Boy Scouts–SS Rooms

**7pm** Church Council – Zoom

### **Thursday, December 9**

**10am-2pm** Office Hours w/ Pastor Chip

**5pm** Holly Fair Set-up

**5:30-7:00pm** Office Hours w/Rev. Paul

**6:30pm** Al Anon – Youth Room

**7pm** Bells

**7:45pm** Adult Choir

### **Friday, December 10**

Holly Fair Set-up

### **Saturday, December 11**

**9am–3pm** Holly Fair

### **Sunday, December 11**

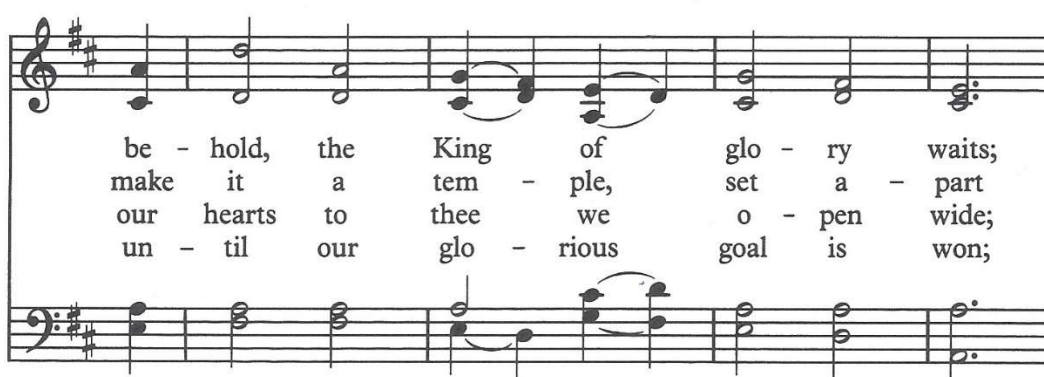
**10:00am** Sunday Worship (Sanctuary & Facebook Live)

**Please wear a mask**

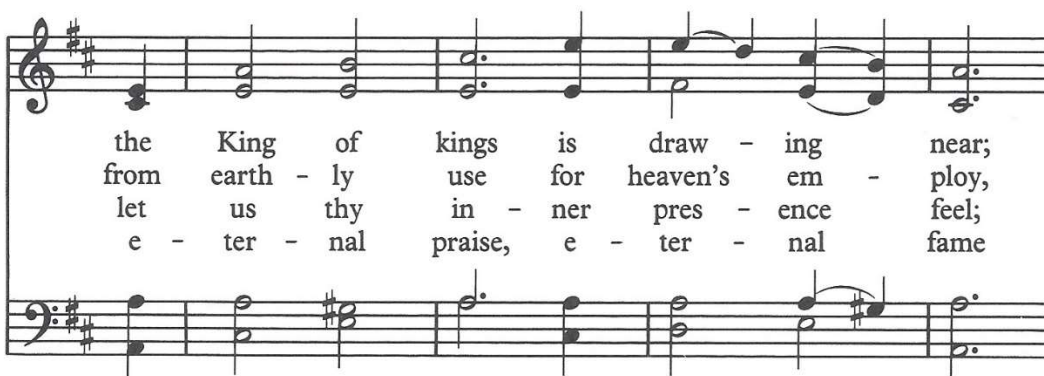
# Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 213



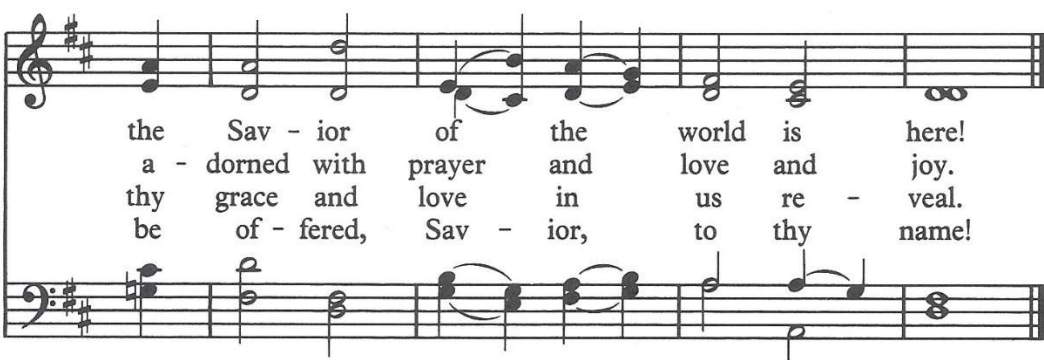
1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates;  
 2. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart;  
 3. Re - deem - er, come, with us a - bide;  
 4. Thy Ho - ly Spir - it lead us on



be - hold, the King of glo - ry waits;  
 make it a tem - ple, set a - part  
 our hearts to thee we o - pen wide;  
 un - til our glo - rious goal is won;



the King of kings is draw - ing near;  
 from earth - ly use for heaven's em - ploy,  
 let us thy in - ner pres - ence feel;  
 e - ter - nal praise, e - ter - nal fame



the Sav - ior of the world is here!  
 a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
 thy grace and love in us re - veal.  
 be of - fered, Sav - ior, to thy name!



# Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice 2089



1. Wild and lone the proph-et's voice ech - oes  
 2. "Bear the fruit re - pen - tance sows: lives of  
 3. With such preach - ing stark and bold John pro -



through the des - ert still, call - ing us to make a  
 jus - tice, truth, and love. Trust no oth - er claim than  
 claimed sal - va - tion near, and his time - less warn - ings



choice, bid - ding us to do God's will: "Turn from  
 those; set your heart on things a - bove. Soon the  
 hold words of hope to all who hear. So we



sin and be bap - tized; cleanse your heart and mind and  
 Lord will come in power, burn - ing clean the thresh - ing  
 dare to jour - ney on, led by faith through ways un -



soul. Quit - ting all the sin you  
 floor: then will flames the chaff de -  
 trod, till we come at last like



prized, yield your life to God's con - trol.  
 vour; wheat a - lone shall fill God's store."  
 John— to be - hold the Lamb of God.



## 2021 CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS

**Please order Poinsettia Plant(s) @ \$12**

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

( ) I will pick up my poinsettia(s). Christmas Eve is a Friday and poinsettias will grace the altar. Please do not take your plant(s) until *AFTER* the 7:30 Christmas Eve service.

( ) I wish to have my poinsettia(s) delivered to a special-care person designated by the Church.

**Orders MUST be returned to the Church or Edna Colcord (413-596-6666 or [ednajcolcord@gmail.com](mailto:ednajcolcord@gmail.com)) by noon on Monday, December 6th.**

