



*December 28, 2025*



# 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

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

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

**December 28, 2025**

**1st Sunday After Christmas**

**10:00AM**

*We ask that everyone wear nametags so that we can be welcoming to all. There are listening devices available for those that may need them. An usher will be happy to assist you. Following the service, everyone is invited to our time of refreshments and friendship in our Fellowship Hall. Please make a left out of our sanctuary, down the hall, and up the stairs. If you are unable to use the stairs, an elevator is available.*

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

*UMH – The “red” United Methodist Hymnal*

## **GATHERING MUSIC**

Piano: O Come, Little Children

arr. L. Larson

## **WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

### **WELCOME**

**\*GATHERING HYMN #240 (UMH)**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Marge Trimble**

Liturgist: Jesus has come to bring love and light to all people. We should shout out our joy and put away our fear and flight, for a new day has dawned because Christ the Savior is born.

**People: We revel in the Good News, given to us in love, and brought forth by the coming of Jesus into the world. Thanks be to God.**

### **UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**Eternal God, we thank you for coming into our lives and bringing hope and salvation into a world desperately in need of you. We give you thanks for pouring yourself out so that we may be strengthened and renewed by your generous act of love. Although Christmas itself is past, we have faith that the joy of Christmas will continue on; filling us, inspiring us and saving us. Therefore, we rejoice, praising you with our whole being and shouting loudly ‘Christ, our Savior is born’. Amen**

**\*SONG OF PRAISE #238 *refrain* (UMH)**

***Gloria, in excelsis Deo!***

**\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**Leader:** The peace of Christ be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**Isaiah 63: 7-9**

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully,” and he became their savior in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

**Hebrews 2: 10-18**

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, “I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

And again, “I will put my trust in him.”

And again, “Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

**Sung Response # 230 vs 4 (UMH)**

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;*

*cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.*

*We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;*

*O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

## GOSPEL READING

**Luke 2: 25-35**

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too."

One: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## SERMON

*The After Christmas Sermon*

Rev. Janet

**\*HYMN #224 (UMH)**

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

## OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Piano: The Sussex Carol

arr. L. Shackley

**\*Doxology #254 (UMH)**

*Star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light*

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*PARTING HYMN see insert

*As with Gladness Those of Old*

\*FOLLOWING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

\*BENEDICTION

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 246 vs 4 (UMH)

*He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love.*

## MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH

Organ: Chorale Prelude on "Joy to the World"

arr. J.S. Dixon

**Welcome Visitors!** *Is this your first visit to United Church? If you wish to be contacted by a member of the church or our pastor, please leave your contact information with one of the ushers or place a visitor card in the collection plate.*

## MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY

**Pastor:** Rev. Janet Sandquist-Skagerlind

**Ushers:** Ralph & Sherrie Ridgeway

**Music Director:** Roberta Morkin

**Liturgist:** Marge Trimble

**Technical:** Deb Trimble

**Greeter:** Edna Colcord

## Wilbraham United Church Staff

**Rev. Janet Sandquist- Skagerlind:** Pastor (pastor@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x 103

**Bobbie Morkin:** Music Director (musicdirector@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x106

**Deb Trimble:** Administrator (admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x100

**David Wapner:** Sexton (wucbuilding@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x107

## *This Week at Wilbraham United Church*

### Sunday, December 28, 2025

10:00 a.m. – Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hour (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

### Monday December 29, 2025

*Church Office closed*

### Tuesday December 30, 2025

*Church Office closed*

### Wednesday December 31, 2025

*Church Office closed*

### Thursday January 1, 2026

*Church Office closed*

### Friday January 2, 2026

*Church Office closed*

### Saturday January 3, 2026

*Church Office closed*

### Sunday January 4, 2026

10:00 a.m. – Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hour (FH)

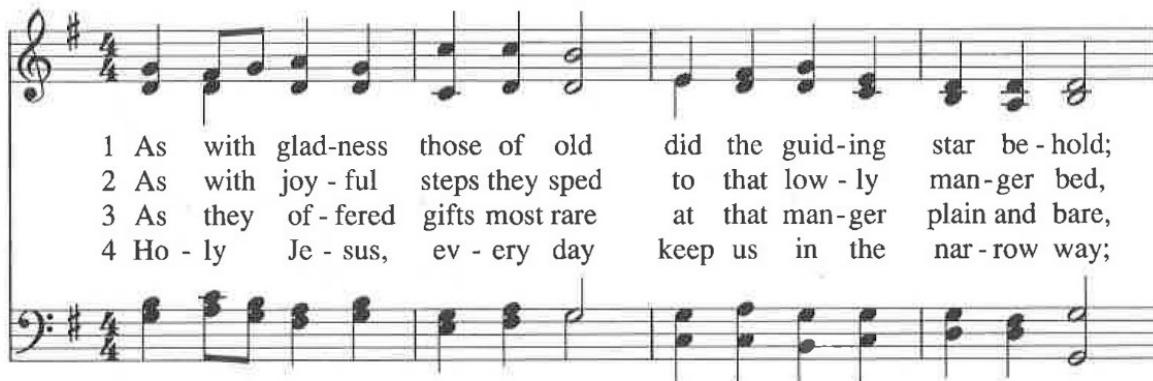
5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

# As with Gladness Those of Old

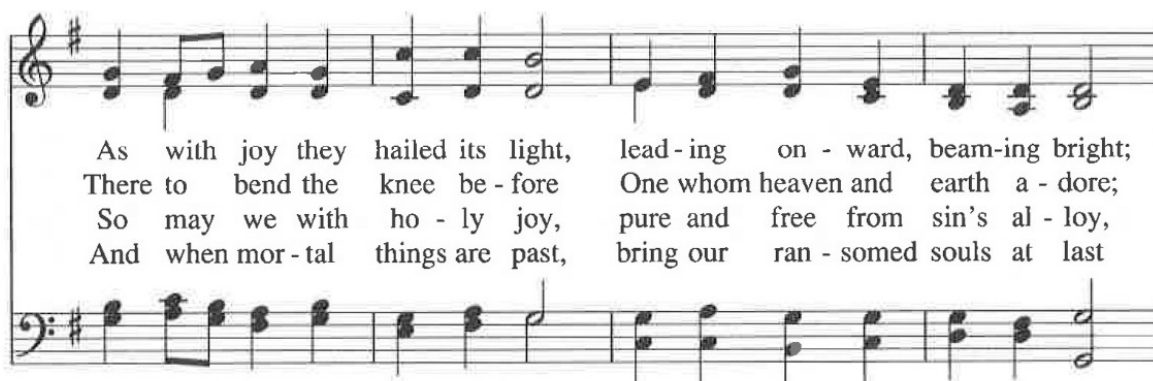
159

William C. Dix, 1861; alt.

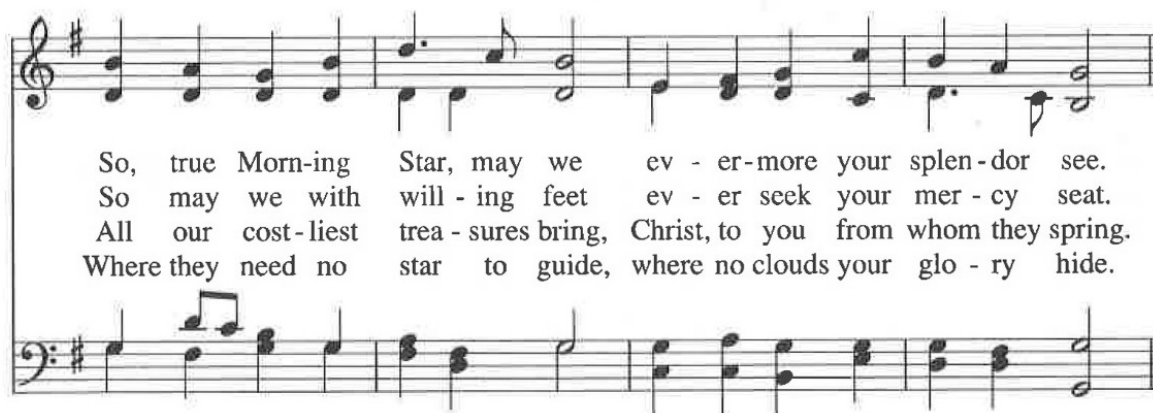
Matt. 2:1-12



1 As with glad-ness those of old did the guid-ing star be-hold;  
 2 As with joy-ful steps they sped to that low-ly man-ger bed,  
 3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at that man-ger plain and bare,  
 4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-ery day keep us in the nar-row way;



As with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;  
 There to bend the knee be-fore One whom heaven and earth a-dore;  
 So may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,  
 And when mor-tal things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last



So, true Morn-ing Star, may we ev-er-more your splen-dor see.  
 So may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek your mer-cy seat.  
 All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.  
 Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glo-ry hide.

## **“News for the Pews” for the Week of December 28, 2025**

The Church will be closed through Thursday January 1<sup>st</sup> for the holiday. Deb will be back in the office on Monday January 5th. Rev. Janet will be on vacation from December 29 through January 5th. In the event of an emergency please contact Rev. Janet or notify the office.

On January 4th the Rev. William Ault will lead us in worship.

**Year End Pledge Reminder:** As we approach the end of the year, there are two worship service dates left in 2025. This prompts this reminder regarding the IRS rules that we must follow regarding reporting of gifts, from which there can be no exceptions.

To qualify as a gift for tax year 2025, the gift must be either:

- 1) if mailed, be postmarked on or before Wednesday, December 31, 2025, or
- 2) be placed in the offering today.

Further, if the gift is a check, the check must be dated on or before December 31, 2025.

We must point out this example: a check dated on or before December 31 that does not meet the criteria listed above will be counted as a gift received in 2026. If made to fulfill a 2025 pledge, it will be noted and appear as “Pledge – Prior Year” in the 2026 accounting.

The Fellowship Commission would like to remind our church membership that **pledge cards** for 2026 can still be turned in. If you have forgotten to turn yours in, please do so as soon as possible. We’re already entering the budgetary process for the new year and knowing our expected pledge income is a key part of that planning. Just a friendly reminder – if you are a “one and done” pledger – your check is gratefully received, but we’d still like to receive a card from you for our bookkeeping purposes. If you need a card they are available in the Narthex or you can see Deb in the office.

If you ordered a **poinsettia** or other Christmas plant for yourself and have not taken one home, please take a plant today!

*If you are in need of Pastoral Care, please contact Rev. Janet or the Church Office.  
After office hours, Rev. Janet can be reached at (978)350-3463.*



## 2025 CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS



### **Given by**

The Colkos Family  
Skip & Candy Dearborn  
Ellen Gatchell  
Karen Gatchell  
Sandy & Larry Harris  
Judy Marek  
Poppy Nelson & Family  
Alesia, Al, Wendy & Jim  
Samantha, Kelsey & Aleena  
The Plumb Family  
David, Keith, Paul and John Scarlett  
Carianne Stebenne  
  
Tim & Kathy Timpson  
The Toman Family  
The Toman Family  
The Toman Family  
Phyllis Walsh

### **In Loving Memory or Celebration of**

Loved Ones  
Loved Ones  
Douglas & Bill  
Loved Ones  
Our Parents & Siblings  
Eunice & Don Lamb, Ken Lamb, Chris Burnor  
Terry Nelson  
Alan & Lois Peck  
Poppy & Grammy  
John Marek, Theresa O'Neill, Linda Plumb  
Richard and Evelyn Scarlett  
Kimberlee Kelley, John & Betty Clark, Tom & Marie Kelley  
Loved Ones  
Vivian Toman- Remembering Always  
Nancy Swanson – In Loving Memory  
Louise Capron - Thinking of you  
Kandi Duffy, Barbara Schwartz, Linda McDonald

