

Offering of Prayers

Song of Preparation (Insert) *In The Stillness* —E. Tompkins
*In the stillness, Savior, draw me near. In the stillness, teach my heart to hear.
Like a little child I come to Thee, and pray that in the stillness I may rest in
Thee; and know that in the stillness You will speak to me.*

Pastoral Prayer, Lifting Names into God's Light, Silent Prayer
Prayer Response

***Closing Hymn #601** *Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing*

***Benediction**

Postlude *Recessional on GLORY TO HIS NAME* —Stockton/Crane

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Following the *Benediction*, feel free to leave immediately or remain in the Sanctuary to listen to the *Postlude*.

Thank you for serving today: Kim Burgess and Charlene Legge (Deacons); The Zambuto Family (Greeters); Bonnie Martin and Mark Rzeznikiewicz (Ushers); Lori McElroy/The Carey Family (Fellowship Hour)

Prayers this Week:

- Ellie Kennedy, at Nashoba Valley Medical Center recovering from recent health issues.

Our Ongoing Prayer List:

Diane Black	Charlie Elwood	Jack Lyons	Debbie Sampson
Kathi Bond	Scott Joyce	Myrtle Murphy	Rudi Schmid
Megan Bettison	Ellie Kennedy	Holly Norton	Liz Waggoner
Jack Cornforth			

This list is refreshed in January and June. If there is a name you would like to put back on this list or one you would like to add, please let Gail Miller or Carol Zaiatz (978-448-2091 or unioncc@uccgroton.org) know.

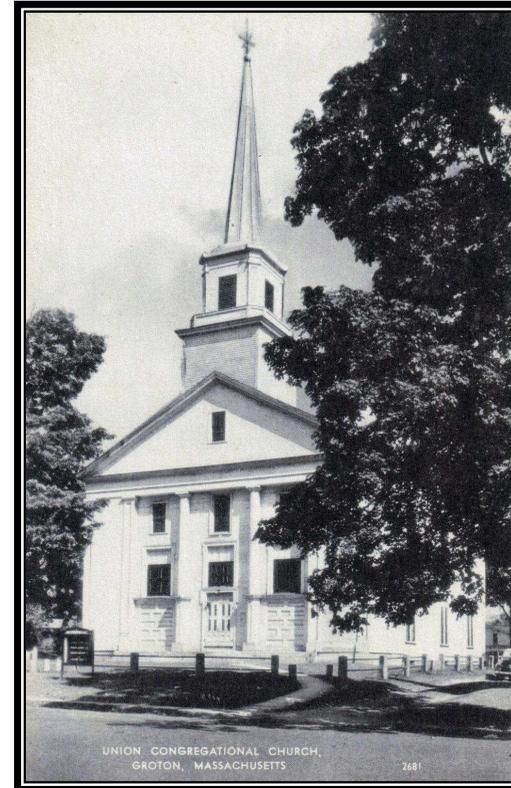
Confidential Prayer Chain: Need prayer and need it now? Simply email prayer@uccgroton.org and your request will go to the confidential pray-ers; or call Lori McElroy (978-448-2841) and she will put your prayer request in motion for you. Prayer requests are held in confidence among those who are praying for you, and you may request that your name be withheld.

Welcome Guests and Newer Folk

Please fill out the beige cards found in the pew racks before you. This is a good way to let us know a little bit about you, and (if desired) to begin to receive information from us (weekly email, monthly newsletter). You may place the card in the offering plate or hand it to an usher or the Pastor, Gail Miller. We are glad you are here!

*Please Rise

Sharing Christ ~ Changing Lives
*Creating a Christian foundation for families
Helping people learn more about Jesus
Living our faith beyond our walls by serving others*



**The Union Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Groton, Massachusetts**

The Reverend Gail L. Miller, Pastor
Bernard Crane, Music Director
Cheryl Townsend, Handbell Choir

**November 19, 2017 10:00 a.m.
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Pledge Sunday**

The Cornucopia on the altar is given to the Glory of God.

Welcome! We are glad you are worshipping with us today. Large print bulletins are available at the back of the Sanctuary or from an Usher. There is a comfortable rocker by the right side exit door for those who need a more comfortable seat. If your baby or children become restless during worship, feel free to walk with them in the back of the Sanctuary or use the rocker. If you desire childcare, our nursery for infants and toddlers is in parlor downstairs. Today, children (pre-school through 9th grade) are released from worship after the *Time with the Children* to Sunday School in the Parish House. Feel free to approach an Usher or the Pastor with any questions.

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Preparation

Gratitude is the precise creaturely counterpart to the grace of God. ~Karl Barth

Prelude *Reflection on FREELY, FREELY* —C. Owens/Crane

Handbell Choir *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* — L. Larson, arr.

***Call to Worship** The Reverend Skip Lloyd

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made,

People: We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Leader: In worship we are reminded that the world is much bigger than we are,

People: And that all of humankind is held in the loving hand of God the Father Almighty.

Leader: God's love knows no limit, his compassion knows no boundaries.

People: And so we worship God, not only in this hour, but with our lives as well.

***Hymn #561** *We Gather Together*

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

Heavenly Father, you have loved us with an everlasting love, but we have gone our own way and broken your laws. We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them. For the sake of your Son who died for us, forgive us, cleanse us and change us. By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you, and to please you more and more; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray together saying,

***Our 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; 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 Pardon**

Leader: God hears the confession of our hearts and lips. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven all our sins, and by the Holy Spirit we are empowered for new life.

People: Thanks be to God!

***The Gloria Patri, #623** (A song of praise Christians have sung together for 1900 years.)

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

***The Passing of the Peace** (As a sign of reconciliation with God and each other, you are invited to share the peace.)

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

*Please Rise

Announcements

Time with the Children

(Children are dismissed to Sunday School in the Parish House.)

Ministry of the Word

Scripture Lessons

1 Chronicles 29:10-20 (p. 336, pew Bible)

Mark 14:3-9 (p. 826)

Sermon *God's Abundant Love — Our Grateful Response* The Reverend Gail L. Miller

**The Apostles' Creed* (on the back of the blue Prayer Request form)

***Hymn #556** *Now Thank We All Our God*

Invitation to Pledging and Receiving of Pledge Cards

Leader: As God's people, we have promised to love and serve God with our whole hearts, minds, and strength.

People: We have promised.

Leader: We acknowledge God as the source of all that we have and all that we are.

People: We know that God alone is our true provider of abundant life.

Leader: We hear God's call to be disciples of Jesus Christ,

People: And respond with joy and generosity.

Leader: We hear God's call to be faithful stewards of all His gifts to us,

People: And respond by sharing them for His purposes.

Leader: We join together each week to worship our God and to grow closer to Christ. We know that giving joyfully to Him is an act of worship that aligns our treasures with the One who treasures us.

People: We make our pledges as a sign of our love for God and in thanksgiving for the many blessings we have received.

All: And so with joy in our hearts, we bring our gifts to God.

Receiving of Pledge Cards

Prayer

***Hymn #620** *We Give Thee But Thine Own*

Ministry of Response

Offering of Gifts and Prayer Requests

Offertory *Glorify Thy Name* —D. Adkins, L. Lamb, arr.

***The Doxology, #625** (A Christian song of praise from the 16th century.)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***Unison Prayer of Dedication**

O God, great, giving, generous God; we have just opened our hands to give of our wealth. Bless now these gifts and our giving. And yet for a little while keep our hands open that we might give again when we see the needs of any of your people. And yet a little longer, O God, keep our hands open that we might receive and give thanks for all good gifts from you. Amen.

Pastor: We shall not offer God...

All: ...that which costs us nothing. Amen.

*Please Rise