

Thank you for serving today: Paul Brown and Craig Smith (Deacons); Juliet Silveri and Holly Haase (Ushers); Andrea McDonough/The Carey Family (Fellowship Hour)

Prayer this Week:

- The family of Norman Faunce, who died on March 4 (his 90th birthday!)

Our Ongoing Prayer List:

Megan Bettison
Charlie Elwood
Joe Marchesani

Scott Joyce
Myrtle Murphy
Rudi Schmid

Edie Tompkins
Liz Waggoner

This list is refreshed January 1 and June 1. If there is a name you would like to put back on the list or add a name, 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.

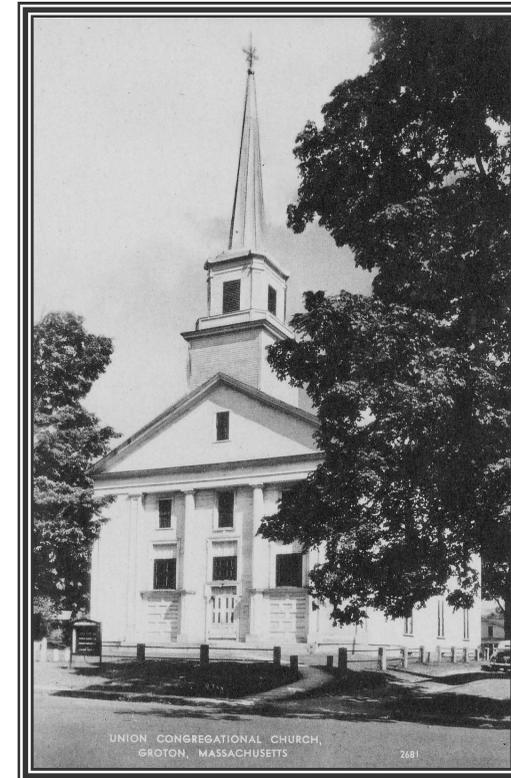
Ephesians 5:18
a canon Edie S. Tompkins

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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!

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 Director

March 11, 2018 10:00 a.m.
Fourth Sunday in Lent

The altar flowers are 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 the Fellowship Hall downstairs. Children (pre-school through 9th grade) are usually 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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Prelude *Reflections on HYFRODOL* —P. Manz

Introit *Here In This Place* —M. Haugen

***Call to Worship** Greg Balligan

Leader:: Let us worship God,
People: for whom our souls thirst and bodies long.
Leader: Come to the Lord, who is rich in grace,
People: approaching our God who is full of mercy.
Leader: People of God, repent! Believe in the Gospel!
People: Come let us turn, return, and follow our God.

***Hymn #87 (v. 1, 2, 3 and 6)** *May Jesus Christ Be Praised*

***Unison Prayer of Confession**
Most merciful God, whose Son, Jesus Christ, was tempted in every way, yet was without sin, we confess before you our own sinfulness; we have hungered after that which does not satisfy; we have compromised with evil; we have doubted your power to protect us. Forgive our lack of faith; have mercy on our weakness. Restore in us such trust and love that we may walk in your ways and delight in doing your will. We pray in Jesus' name, as he 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 Forgiveness**
Leader: Jesus knows our every weakness, and loves us still. Awaken to the promise of Christ's amazing grace. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.
People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Amen.

***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 Charlene Kelly

Time with the Children Bernard Crane
(Children (PreK-7th grade) are released to Sunday School in the Parish House; 8th-9th graders remain in worship.)

Ministry of the Word
Scripture Lessons
1 Corinthians 12:12-26 (p. 933, pew Bible)
1 Peter 2:4-10 (p. 984)
Sermon in Song Bernard Crane
**The Apostles' Creed* (blue insert)

Ministry of Response Holly Haase
Offering of Gifts and Prayer Requests
Offertory *Gift of Love* —H. Hopson
***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, we offer these gifts and our lives, not for the sake of their appearance, but in gratitude for all you have given to us. Above all, we thank you for the great gift of Jesus, for his selflessness and sacrificial love. May our discipleship possess these same qualities. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.
Pastor: We shall not offer God...
All: ...that which costs us nothing. Amen.

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 *Threefold Amen* Traditional

***Closing Hymn #283** *We Are God's People*

***Benediction**
***Benediction Response** *The Lord Whom We Love* —K. Kaiser

Postlude *Zion Stands By Hills Surrounded* —T. Hastings, arr. Crane

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

Pastor Miller is away on the Youth Winter Retreat, returning this afternoon.

Ministry of Fellowship A sincere welcome to all who are visiting this morning. We're glad to have you sharing in our celebration of worship. Please join us for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall downstairs.

*Please Rise