

Sharing Christ, Changing Lives



The Union Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Groton, Massachusetts

January 18, 2026 10:00 a.m.

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God.

The Rev. Priscilla Lawrence, Interim Minister
Bernard Crane, Music Director
Cheryl Townsend, Handbell Choir Director

Welcome! We are glad you are worshipping with us today. Large print bulletins and personal listening devices are available at the back of the Sanctuary or from an Usher. If your baby or child(ren) become a little restless during worship, feel free to walk with them in the back of the Sanctuary or use the rocker by the right-side exit door. Children (PreK-7th grade) go to Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall after the Children’s Sermon. Feel free to approach an Usher or the Pastor with any questions.

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PRELUDE *Behold The Lamb of God* — Mozart, T. Paris, N. Hearn / arr. Crane
CHORAL INTROIT *All Beautiful The March of Days* — Traditional

*CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsive, based on Psalm 4)*

Leader: I call to you, O God. Answer me, I pray!

People: Have mercy on me, and hear my prayer.

Leader: You provided relief when I was troubled.

People: You put gladness in my heart.

Leader: Let the light of your face shine upon us, O Lord,

People: for we put our trust in you.

Leader: I will lie down both in peace and in sleep,

People: for you alone make my life safe.

Leader: Let us worship God together!

*HYMN #25 *Immortal, Invisible*

*OPENING PRAYER *(unison)*

We thank you, O Lord, for this winter day and the opportunity to worship you. We call upon your name. We sing your praise. We whisper our prayer. We allow our hearts to fill to overflowing with the joy that comes only comes from you. We seek you. We seek your presence in our lives and in our worship. In the name of Jesus we pray together now...

*PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR *(unison, debtors)*

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 GOD’S GRACE

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

(As a sign of reconciliation with God and each other, you are invited to share the peace of Christ with those closest to you.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL ANTHEM *Sing With Joy* — D. Besig

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

SCRIPTURE READING (p. 790, Pew Bible)

Matthew 9:27-38

SERMON

Patient Promise

The Rev. Dr. Priscilla Lawrence

OFFERING OF PRAYERS

SONG OF PREPARATION

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.*

LIFTING NAMES INTO GOD'S LIGHT

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

Threefold Amen

— Crane

SHARING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC & PASSING THE PLATE

*THE DOXOLOGY

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*unison*)

**Creator God, you have given us everything. We return but a portion of all that you
have given to us. Bless these gifts that they might further your kingdom, here on
earth. Amen.**

*APOSTLES' CREED (*unison*, found at the back of the Hymnal)

*HYMN #498

Peace Like A River

**BENEDICTION & CHORAL RESPONSE

Now Unto the King Eternal

— W. D. Young

POSTLUDE

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

***Following the Benediction, you may depart immediately or remain seated to listen to the Postlude.*

Thank you for serving today: Andrea McDonough (Reader)

Offering Note: Pledge offerings and donations can be given in the passed plate, or scan the QR code on the back of this bulletin to give online. Thank you for supporting the mission and ministry of our congregation. **Ministry of Fellowship:** Welcome to all who are joining us this morning. We're glad to have you sharing in our celebration of worship. Please join us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall after worship for refreshments and conversation.

Welcome Guests and Newer Folks

Our church family is made up of people from all walks of life and from every point along the spiritual journey. No matter who you are, what you believe, or even if you aren't sure what you believe, you are welcome here in this place. We are not a church that tries to get everyone to think alike, but we do encourage and teach people to love alike. If you would like to stay up with what happens around here, we encourage you to sign up for our weekly Union Digest email that comes straight to your email inbox each Friday. There you will find worship recordings, devotional videos, seasonal reflections, upcoming events and opportunities, and other materials to support you in your journey of faith. Feel free to sign a guest card and place it in the offering plate, sign up on our website www.uccgroton.net, or email the office at unioncc@uccgroton.org.

Prayers:

Bob Hargraves passed away early Friday morning, January 16, 2026. Please keep his family in your prayers. Funeral arrangements will be shared when they have been determined.

Our Ongoing Prayer List:

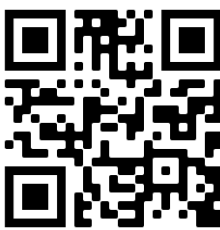
Family of Bruce Wyman	Joe Marchesani	The Carey Family
Edie Tompkins	Settled Pastor Search Committee	John Greene
Janice Owen	Abby Winkler	Billy Smith
Barbara Gale	Gemma Sampas	Rachel Elliott
Nick Coppola	Don Landry	Friends of Sheila Mitchell
Halsey Platt	Family of William Shute	Family of Rev. Vicki Hammel
Family of Michael Janiszewski	Chris Brown	David Stewart
Family of John Murphy	Family of Rev. Skip Lloyd	Family of Barbara Kenney
Sarah Reiff	Linda Smith Johnson	The Hargraves Family

We have updated and refreshed our prayer list. If there is a name you would like to add or remove, or if we have removed someone erroneously, please contact the Church Office (978-448-2091 or unioncc@uccgroton.org).

Need prayer and need it now? Simply email prayer@uccgroton.org and your request will go to the confidential pray-ers; or the Church Office (978-448-2091) and we 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.



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