

Sharing Christ, Changing Lives



The Union Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Groton, Massachusetts

February 8, 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.

* * * * *

*Today we welcome Macie Bridge, who is leading the worship service today.
Macie is a graduate of Yale Divinity School and is on staff at the Yale Center for Faith and Culture.
She is discerning a call to ordained ministry with the support of UCC Groton.*

PRELUDE

CHORAL INTROIT *The Kingdom of God* — Taize

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In our worship, we can catch a glimpse of faith.
People: In worship, we can draw near to God, who has already drawn close to us.
Leader: In worship, we present ourselves just as we are;
People: Sensing that God accepts us and understands.
Leader: In this spirit, let us worship God together!

*HYMN #560 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

*OPENING PRAYER *(unison)*
Our hearts overflow, O God, as we turn to you in prayer and lift our voices in praise. Send your Holy Spirit to quiet our busy minds, to soothe our troubled spirits, and to prepare us to listen to what you desire for us to hear in this time of worship. O God, our God, bless us with your holy touch and anoint us with your gladness. In the name of Jesus, we pray and who taught us to say together...

*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

SPECIAL MUSIC *What Wondrous Love is This* — arr. Lloyd Larsen
UCC Faith Ringers

CHILDREN’S SERMON
(Following the Children’s Sermon, children proceed to Fellowship Hall for Sunday School.)
**Please rise in body or spirit.*

SCRIPTURE READING (p. 786, Pew Bible)

Matthew 5:13-20

SERMON

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

Macie Bridge

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

— Traditional

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*)

Abundant God, we are grateful for the ways you bless our lives and for the gifts you give us. May these gifts help heal and restore, so that all will flourish. We dedicate them in your name. Amen.

*HYMN #27

Tell Out, My Soul

**BENEDICTION & CHORAL RESPONSE

Lord, Let Us Now Depart in Peace

— G. Whelpton

POSTLUDE

Courage and Grace

— Michael Joy

UCC Faith Ringers

**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: Janet Kennedy (Greeter), Nancy Thornton (Usher),
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.

Our Ongoing Prayer List:

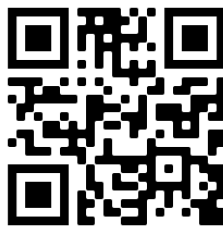
Family of Bruce Wyman	Joe Marchesani	John Greene
Edie Tompkins	Settled Pastor Search Committee	Billy Smith
Janice Owen	Abby Winkler	Rachel Elliott
Barbara Gale	Don Landry	Friends of Sheila Mitchell
Nick Coppola	Family of William Shute	Family of Rev. Vicki Hammel
Halsey Platt	Chris Brown	David Stewart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

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.



Give Online



Upcoming Events



Join Our Email List