

Sharing Christ, Changing Lives



The Union Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Groton, Massachusetts

March 1, 2026 10:00 a.m.
Second Sunday of Lent

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 *Meditation on “Near the Cross”* — W. H. Doane / Crane

CHORAL INTROIT *I Love the Lord, Who Heard My Cry* — Watts / arr. Smallwood

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: O give thanks to God, call on God’s name.

People: Make known God’s deeds among the people.

Leader: Sing to God, sing praises to God;

People: Tell of all God’s wonderful works!

Leader: Glory in God’s holy name.

People: Let us worship our God together!

*HYMN (Insert) *Forty Days and Forty Nights*

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious God, forgive us. Forgive us for our impatience and unwillingness to wait for you and for things to happen in your time, and not our own. Forgive us for demanding our own way and for seeking after that which is not of you. Forgive us for worshiping things that get in the way of faithfully following you. Forgive us, O God, and help us to not forget you in our lives. In the name of Jesus we pray, saying 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

CHORAL ANTHEM *Communion of Compassion* — Victor C. Johnson

CHILDREN’S SERMON (*Following the Children’s Sermon, children proceed to Fellowship Hall.*)

SCRIPTURE READING Selections from John 11

SERMON *A Shot of Christ’s Gospel* The Rev. Dr. Priscilla Lawrence

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

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

Amen

— Dickinson

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*)

Source of all goodness, surely no gift of ours can repay Christ's gift of love. So we offer ourselves, with thanksgiving for new life in the spirit and place before you what we have in response to your love. Bless what we give. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION REFRAIN # #323 (v.3 only) *Let Us Break Bread Together*

**Let us praise God together on our knees. Let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord have mercy on me.**

INVITATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS

(Note: we use gluten free bread and grape juice, so all can join at Christ's table.)

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, once again we have shared in the bread and the cup of your table. It is here that we have tasted the bread and cup, and recognized again the reality of your love for us. As we have enjoyed the hospitality of your table, help us to cherish these moments of communion. Sustain us as we attempt to live for you and in your spirit in the week ahead. In the name of Jesus, whom we accept as the Christ. Amen.

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

*HYMN #186

The Old Rugged Cross

**BENEDICTION & CHORAL RESPONSE

Go With Us God

— T. Tallis

POSTLUDE

Christ Our Hope In Life And Death

— K. Getty et al / arr. M. Ijames

**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: Patrick Melampy (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:

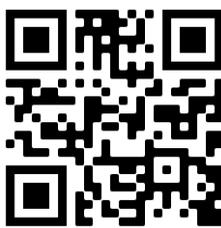
Edie Tompkins	Joe Marchesani	John Greene
Janice Owen	Settled Pastor Search Committee	Billy Smith
Barbara Gale	Abby Winkler	Rachel Elliott
Nick Coppola	Don Landry	Friends of Sheila Mitchell
Halsey Platt	Family of William Shute	Family of Rev. Vicki Hammel
Family of Michael Janiszewski	Chris Brown	David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

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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Upcoming Events



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