

Sharing Christ, Changing Lives



The Union Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

Groton, Massachusetts

March 15, 2026 10:00 a.m.

Fourth 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 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:

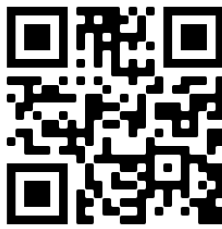
Edie Tompkins	Joe Marchesani	John Greene
Janice Owen	Settled Pastor Search Committee	Billy Smith
Barbara Gale	Abby Winkler	Rachel Elliott
Nick Coppola	Don Landry	Friends of Sheila Mitchell
Halsey Platt	Family of William Shute	Family of Rev. Vicki Hammel
Family of Michael Janiszewski	Chris Brown	David 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.



Give Online



Upcoming Events



Join Our Email List

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 5:11-25

SERMON

A Divided Life

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

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*)

O God, we have beheld your goodness to us. Accept the offering of the work of our hands and use us for the sake of Christ, in whose name we pray and dedicate our gifts. Amen.

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

*HYMN #183

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

**BENEDICTION & CHORAL RESPONSE

Blessing

— K. Hart

POSTLUDE

One

— Crane

**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: Nancy Thornton (Greeter), Andrea McDonough (Usher),
Charlene Legge (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! 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 *Undivided* — Crane

CHORAL INTROIT *I Love the Lord, Who Heard My Cry* — Trad'l / arr. R. Smallwood

***CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 27)**

Leader: The Psalmist sings. One thing I asked of the Lord, that I will seek after;

People: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,

Leader: to behold the beauty of the Lord,

People: and to inquire in God’s temple.

Leader: Sisters and Brothers, God is here;

People: And in love and in mercy, God greets us here.

Leader: Let us worship together.

***HYMN #345** *Blessed Assurance*

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, you have made us citizens of heaven, but we confess that we have set our minds on earthly things. We have let our desires for security restrain our commitment to serve. We fear danger. We let our love of things dull our generosity. Yet, you know the desires of our heart and nothing is hidden from you. By the power of the Holy Spirit, conform our souls to the glory of Christ, that we may be the body of Christ for the world. We pray in his name, 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 *Contemplation on Beautiful Savior* — Matthew Compton

CHILDREN’S SERMON

(Following the Children’s Sermon, children grades PreK-7 may proceed to the Fellowship Hall.)

**Please rise in body or spirit.*