

Sharing Christ, Changing Lives



The Union Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

Groton, Massachusetts

March 22, 2026 10:00 a.m.

Fifth 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 *Light Dawns on a Weary World* — R. Rowland-Raybold

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Stay with Christ and Christ will stay with you.

People: Listen for God and God will speak.

Leader: Seek the Spirit and the Spirit will be revealed.

People: For the Spirit is already here, inviting us.

Leader: In worship we can refocus our priorities and redirect our gaze.

People: In worship we can allow God to open our eyes so that we can see clearly.

Leader: Let us now worship God together.

*HYMN #177 *What Wondrous Love Is This*

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, we confess that without you we are not whole. Forgive our foolish ways, our prideful selves. Make us listen to the way of peace and remove from us disbelief. Give us thankful hearts, as we come to the waters of life with trust and hope.

And, hear us as we join with the believers of the ages, who learned from Jesus to pray our Lord’s Prayer...

***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 *Psalm 16 My Refuge* — C. Courtney

CHILDREN’S SERMON

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

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 29:1-19

SERMON

A Vital Religion

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, all that we have comes from you. Receive our offerings and with it the offering
of our lives, for we return to you only what you have so graciously given. Use us for
the sake of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

*HYMN #184

In The Cross of Christ I Glory

**BENEDICTION & CHORAL RESPONSE

Blessing

— K. Hart

POSTLUDE

When Israel Was In Egypt's Land

— R. Rowland-Raybold

**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 (Usher), Greg Balligan (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:

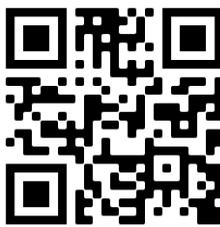
Edie Tompkins	Joe Marchesani	John Greene
Janice Owen	Settled Pastor Search Committee	Billy Smith
Barbara Gale	Abby Winkler	Rachel Elliott
Nick Coppola	Don Landry	Friends of Sheila Mitchell
Halsey Platt	Family of William Shute	Family of Rev. Vicki Hammel
Family of Michael Janiszewski	Chris Brown	David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