

United Church of Christ

Groton Congregational Church

Founded in 1702



December 13, 2020



We Gather in Community as God's People



*Prelude: "Steal Away to Jesus" (piano solo) and
"Amazing Grace" (piano & flute duet)*

Announcements:

Community Meals is looking for 1 or 2 people who are willing to volunteer to distribute meals one Saturday per month. It requires only 1 hour of time between 11:45 and 12:45. Please call or email the office if you can help us. As always, pre-packaged food and monetary donations are welcome.

Our Annual Pledge Drive is still in gear. If you have not received your letter from the Stewardship Committee with pledge card please contact the office. You may submit your pledge cards at any time.

Zoom Meetings

- 1- Don't forget about our Zoom Coffee Hour at 11:30am on December 13th
 - 2- Our weekly Wednesday Prayer meeting at 5:30pm.
 - 3- Book Study Meeting begins at 6:30pm following the Wednesday Prayer Meeting.
- If you are not receiving our weekly Zoom invitations, please email the office.

Call To Worship

One: Sing out, my soul! Sing of the holiness of God:

People: Who has delighted in humanity;
lifted up the poor, satisfied the hungry,
given voice to the silent,
and grounded the oppressor.
God has blessed the full-bellied with emptiness,
And given the gift of tears
To those who have never wept;

People: God has desired the darkness of the womb,
and inhabited our flesh--

One: Sing of the longing of God:

People: Sing out, my soul!

Opening Hymn: "In the Bleak Midwinter" (PS#128 vs 1, 2, & 4)

In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan.
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign;

In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But his mother only in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the Beloved with a kiss.

Prayer of Invocation:

O Wondrous God, send your Messenger to us today with a word of grace:
if we are fearful, move us to Confidence.
If we are weary, offer us Rest.
If we are empty, fill us with Hope.
We have been searching for you far away;
Let us find you at home in our midst,
Changing hearts and minds urging us to join your work of Love.
We pray in the name of the One who is coming,
Jesus, the Christ. **Amen**

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

The Candle of Love

Cindi, Dave, Joshua, and Sierra Bryte



O Holy One, we light this third candle,
And marvel at your desire to be one with us.
Let its flame summon hearts grown cold into the warmth of a
people living in The Light of Love. Fill our lives with love making room
there for friends and strangers, all who desire to know you, God with us, as we work for justice and peace in the
service of Hope.

People: God be with us in this Light of Love.

Hymn: "One Candle Is Lit" vs. 4

Come wander where lions and lambs gently play
Where evil is banished and faith takes the day,
A babe in a manger to fool the world's eyes.
One candle is lit for God's loving surprise.

-We Express Our Gratitude-

Call To Offering

In struggle and in joy, God is faithful to us.

We bring forth our offerings – our tithes, our treasures, our least coins – to demonstrate our faithfulness to God.

Offering

Anthem: "Patapan" by the Handbell Choir

Blessing of the Jammies

We give thanks to those who took a tag and bought the jammies for the children at the Groton Childhood Development Center. May those who gave know they have provided a gift for children who when they put on the warm jammies may be surprised as they feel the love offered to them and rest well feeling cared for. And the parents who are grateful for the support and care. Bless the children who wear these - and keep them safe and able to share your love. **Amen**

Prayer of Dedication:

People: O Faithful One, accept these gifts of our hearts and hands. May they be multiplied and magnified as the living presence of Christ in the world. **Amen.**

Children's Message

Interlude: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

We Share our Concerns with God and Each Other

Sharing our Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

We Hear God's Words and Guidance for Our Lives

Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:26-38;46b-55

Sermon: "Let It Be With Me"

Closing Hymn: "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates" (CH 129 4 verses)

Lift up your heads, O mighty gates; behold, the glorious Ruler waits!
The Sovereign One is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! We open wide our hearts to you; here, Christ, abide!
Let us your inner presence feel; thy grace and love in us reveal.

So come our Sovereign, enter in! Let new and nobler life begin;
You Holy Spirit guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.

Benediction

Let us go forth without fear, creating in our lives a space for the One who longs to dwell with us, to share our lives, and bless our world, and lead us into the Kin-dom of Justice and Peace. **Amen.**

Benediction Sung Response

"Go Now in Peace" by Besig

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. **Amen.**

Minister: Reverend Lee Ireland

Deacon: Sue Blaisdell

Advent Reader: Cindi, Dave, Joshua, & Sierra Bryte

Organist: Sue Stottlemeyer

Pianist: Janice Kimball

Pianist: Sophie Ash

Soloist: Cathy Johnson

Videographer & Vocalist: Dick Stottlemeyer

Video Editor: Lisa Gorman

The Groton Congregational Choir

The Groton Congregational Handbell Choir