

First Congregational Church of Groton, United Church of Christ
The Order of Morning Worship
EPIPHANY January 3, 2021

Prelude "We Three Kings" Izzy Ash and Janice Kimball
Welcome
Announcements

Call to Worship **Doris Pulaski**

One: Arise! Shine! Your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!
Women: We have seen the star in the east, and we are following.
*Men: We have remembered God's wonder and promise,
and we are worshiping.*
Children: We have come not to get presents, but to give them!
One: Lift up your eyes and look around;
God's people now gather together,
to open our hearts and sing out our praise.
**All: The mystery of God's wonder and grace is here:
Come, let us adore!**

HYMN "As With Gladness" **CH #173**

*** Prayer of Confession (unison)**
God of wonder and mystery, today we remember how you surprise us in every age. Into the gloom of fear and want, you bring light; into emptiness, you bring abundance; into the cold, you bring warmth. Into the hardness of the world, you bring the greatest power we have known, in the seemingly powerless form of an infant. Enter now, Holy One, among us and within us, and move us to joyful adoration of your mystery and wonder.

One: We remember the Magi, who set out with singular focus on the promise of the heavens.
All: And we remember the ways that we have lost sight of you, God, as the bright guide for our lives.
One: We remember that they stayed determined on their journey, not even swayed by Herod's power and promises.

All: And we remember that often we have started out well, but strayed from your path, detoured by our fleeting fears and desires.
One: We remember the wise ones who adored the child: wisdom and wealth falling to their knees before a poor infant.
All: And we remember that too often we have given our adoration to wealth or wisdom, not seeing the Christ in our midst. Be with us now as we move into worship this day.

Words of Assurance *Rev. Lee Ireland*
One: To each of us who knows that we have lost sight of the promise, or lost the way of our God, or lost hope, God has a promise: "I am with you." God gives a holy presence, and forgiveness, and new hope, in the Christ.
All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Offering of Tithes and Gifts
Offertory Anthem "Twas in the Moon of Wintertime" Flute and Piano Duet
Janice Kimball and Sue Stottlemeyer

*Doxology (No. 515 in the Pilgrim Hymnal)
*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)**
God of every good gift, here we present our offerings. There is money here, fulfilling our pledges to support the ministries we do in your name. There are gifts that we give in response to your Spirit, which we remember in joyful song and holy story, in prayer and silence. And there are other gifts, not physically seen but held in the altar of our hearts. God, we offer them all to you. We ask your blessing on all that we give, so that your loving care reaches into us and out to all the world, ever more deeply and gracefully. We ask it in Jesus' name, Amen

Children's message Rachel Measimer

Joys & Concerns of the Church in Prayer
Prayer Time in Silence, Pastoral Prayer, & Lord's Prayer

Christian Bible Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6 Doris Pulaski
Gospel Reading: Matthew 2: 1-12 Rev. Ireland
Sermon: "A Light to the Gentiles" Rev. Ireland

Communion Hymn “Go Tell It on the Mountain” CH #167

Service of Holy Communion

Words of Invitation

Words of Consecration

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

Through the broken bread, you have offered us healing, through the outpoured cup, you have offered us a path to new life, and through the gift of our common sharing, we have been invited into the experience of the communion of our souls and been graced by your presence, God. On this day, we give you thanks and pray that our lives may be renewed in the life and love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN “Joy To the World” CH #143

Benediction Rev. Lee Ireland
Arise, people of God! Shine! The light of our Christ is in you and among you, guiding you and blessing you, now and always: Amen.

***Benediction Response “Go Now in Peace”**
*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 He 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*

Postlude “There’s A Song in the Air”
***Those who are able, please stand.**

PARTICIPANTS

Minister: Rev. Lee A. Ireland
Musicians: Sue Stottlemeyer, Janice Kimball & Izzy Ash
Liturgist: Doris Pulaski
Videographer: Richard Stottlemeyer
Video Editor: Lisa Gorman

The Groton Congregational Choir



Enter to Worship

Depart to Serve

