

Participants

Bridge Pastor: Rev. Lee Ireland
Liturgist: Deacon Kevin Measimer
Children's Message: Rachel Measimer
Organist: Sue Stottlemyer
Flutist: Janice Kimball
Pianist: Burt Turner
Videographer: Dick Stottlemyer
Video Editor: Lisa Gorman
The Groton Congregational Choir & Handbell Choir

The Groton Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Church

January 31, 2021



PRELUDE "God Himself is With Us" Handbells

WELCOME Kevin Measimer

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather to respond to the call of God's love.

People: Thankful that someone cared enough to share this good news with us.

One: May we be compassionate enough to share this divine presence with others.

People: Love, when shared, is not divided but multiplied.

One: Love, given away, is not diminished but expanded.

People: May our gathering beckon and welcome those near and far to know the love of this divine presence.

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

From deep within us we know of a loving presence. All around us we see glory, beauty, life and light. We have no words for what we experience so we cry out, "God!". In this moment of worship, may that loving presence grow deeper, may our awareness of the divine presence around us grow more intense. May we, gathered at this time, learn to pay more attention to God, who loves us at all times and in all places.

People: God, of love and life, in this moment of prayer be more and more in us so that we might live more and more in you. Amen.

OPENING HYMN "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" CH #25, verses 1, 2 and 5

TIME WITH CHILDREN Rachel Measimer

OFFERING When we give of ourselves to meet the needs of others, we are co-creators in the health of God's creation. As we have been given much, let us give in return.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Transforming God, we dedicate our gifts for the health of your creation. May those who receive these gifts be blessed by your love and inspired to give to others so that your creation will continue to be transformed by your love.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF THE DAY AND LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN "O Christ, the Healer" CH #503, verses 1, 3 and 5

Hebrew Readings Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111

New Testament Readings 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:14-20

SERMON "Knowledge Puffs Up But Love Builds Up" The Reverend Lee A. Ireland

CLOSING HYMN "Amazing Grace" CH# 546, all verses

BENEDICTION

And now in the wholeness and the goodness of God, go forth. Go and laugh with your friends, reconcile with those who have hurt you, be kind to strangers, and feel the Divine smile upon us. Now and forevermore. Amen.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE "Go Now In Peace"

POSTLUDE "The Heavens Declare" by Benedetto Burt Turner, piano

Bridge Minister-Reverend Lee A. Ireland

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