

Announcements:

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

Ash Wednesday is February 17, 2021. This marks the beginning of the Lenten season. Groton Congregational will be offering the dispensation of ashes **beginning at 6:00 p.m.** All are welcome.

Strict safety protocols will be followed. The sanctuary will be accessed through the Narthex doors ONLY and exit through the Midway Door ONLY. All attendees are required to wear masks and following distancing protocols set in place at the church.

Zoom Meetings

- 1- Don't forget about our Zoom Coffee Hour at 11:30am on February 14th.
- 2- Our weekly Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 5:30pm.
- 3- There will not be a Zoom Prayer Meeting on Ash Wednesday as we are holding a special in-sanctuary service at 6pm.

If you are not receiving our weekly Zoom invitations, please email the office.

The Groton Congregational Church

United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Church
Founded in 1702



February 14, 2021

Bridge Minister: Reverend Lee Ireland
Videographer: Richard Stottlemeyer

Organist: Sue Stottlemeyer
Video Editor: Lisa Gorman

The Groton Congregational Church Choir & Handbell Choir

The Groton Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
The Order of Morning Worship
Transfiguration Sunday February 14, 2021

Prelude "Bwana Asafiwe" (Praise to the Lord) Handbell Choir

Welcome Deaconess Doris Pulaski

Call to Worship

One: Gathering in this sacred time we anticipate new wonders each week.

All: **Wherever two or three are gathered to worship, a holy spirit is present, despite the distance.**

One: Open our eyes to witness the fantastic love and wondrous joy waiting to be revealed, even this day, even in this time.

All: **We will want to linger in the spirit of this gathering, but when we leave today may our hearts be open to all the wonders of God's beautiful world.**

Invocation

O Holy One, on mountaintops and valley floors you reveal to us the light of your love. Our hearts' desire is to bask in the amazing glory of the divine presence. With each encounter we are changed and transformed. Draw us nearer that we might receive a double portion of your Holy Spirit. Help us, O Holy One, to live our lives as an instrument of your divine glory. May we walk among our siblings and friends as a blessing, bearing light into dark places, hope to displace despair, and love that casts out hate. Our world is hurting, and we need the followers of Jesus who choose to say 'yes' and follow more closely. Maybe then we will hear your voice speaking to us and saying, "Listen to my Child, the Beloved!" As we do so, guide us as we listen and then are empowered to share your love. **Amen.**

HYMN "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" CH# 517, verses 1&3
Flutist-Janice Kimball

Offering

Peter offered to build a tabernacle on the mountain with Jesus. But God does not dwell in houses made with human hands. Let us offer ourselves in service and share God's love. Let us offer our sacrifices to build community, bring peace, and be a double blessing to those in need throughout the world. **Amen.**

Offertory Anthem "The Gift of Love" Richard Stottlemeyer & Janice Kimball

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Rev. Lee Ireland

With these gifts we proclaim not ourselves but Jesus and commit ourselves to follow a way that leads to love and life. May these serve as witnesses to our love for each other and the God who loves us all. Amen.

Children's Message

Rachel Measimer

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

HYMN "Transform Us" CH #182, all verses
Vocalist-Richard Stottlemeyer w/ Flutist-Janice Kimball

Bible Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Doris Pulaski
Gospel Reading: Mark 9:2-9 Rev. Lee Ireland

Sermon "Dazzling" Rev. Lee Ireland

HYMN "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending" CH, # 606, vs 1-3
Vocalist-Richard Stottlemeyer w/ Flutist-Janice Kimball

Benediction Now may the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness" and has shone in our hearts, give us light to bear to the world that all may see and know that God is love. Amen.

Benediction Response "Go Now in Peace" Choir

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 "Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown" - arr. by Dale Wood