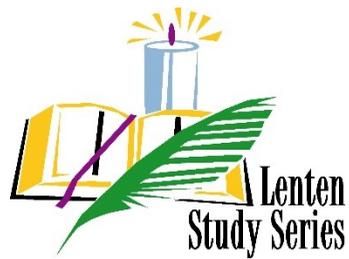


Postlude "Joy Eternal" by Garrett Parker Sue Stottlemeyer, Organist
***Those who are able, please stand.**

This Week's Participants:

Bridge Pastor: Rev. Lee Ireland
Liturgist: Deacon Kevin Measimer
Children's Message: Rachel Measimer
Organist: Sue Stottlemeyer
Pianist: Janice Kimball
Videographer: Richard Stottlemeyer
Video Editor: Lisa Gorman

The Groton Congregational Choir & Handbell Choir



This year, Rev. Lee is offering an adult educational opportunity to discuss the Gospel of John. Bible Study will begin on February 24th at 6:30pm following the regular Wednesday Evening Prayer Meeting.

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.

Zoom Meetings

1- Don't forget about our Zoom Coffee Hour at 11:30am on February 21st.
2- Our weekly Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 5:30pm.
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



First Sunday of Lent
February 21, 2021

First Congregational Church of Groton, United Church of Christ

The Order of Worship

First Sunday of Lent

February 21, 2021

Prelude "Panis Angelicus" Duet: Janice Kimball and Sue Stottlemeyer

Welcome

Call to Worship

Deacon Kevin Measimer

Leader: Our souls are created to be God's dwelling place, and the dwelling place of the soul is God.

**All: As we worship, we experience the God who dwells in us.
Through our worship, we dwell in God.**

Leader: As we make the Holy One our dwelling place, no evil shall overtake us. Come, live and love in the shelter of the Most High and say, "God is my refuge and fortress in whom I trust."

All: Through our worship, we love the God who dwells in us, and in whom we dwell. God is our refuge and our home.

Invocation

All: As in days of old, Creator God, we come to look for your signs of covenant promises. Like the rainbow days of Noah, we see and know your signs and hear your voice again directing us to places of preparation and transformation in our lives and in our world. Thank you, God, for your covenant signs in this season of Lent. Amen.

HYMN "Forty Days and Forty Nights" CH #179 verses 1, 4, and 5

Offertory

Beloved Friends, God wishes to be seen and wishes to be sought. God wishes to be awaited and to be trusted. There are multitudes of individuals who long for God, who are seeking God, but do not know where or how to search. May this church, this congregation be a lamp to light the pathway for those who are seeking God. Our offerings—financial and other—help us to shine our collective light brightly so that fellow-seekers may find their way. Give, that we might shine more brightly.

Offertory Anthem "Aria" by C. Franck

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Rev. Lee Ireland

God carries us within God's own self in love, and labors until full term, then suffers the sharpest throes and the hardest pains that ever were or ever shall be. Thank you, O God, for loving us and laboring with us as we seek you and as we help others in their seeking. Bless these offerings which we return to you, that in our seeking and our serving, our light might illumine someone's path. Guide us in your wisdom and love that we may use these gifts to manifest your presence in the world in all that we do. Amen.

Children's Message:

Rachel Measimer

Joys & Concerns of the Church in Prayer

Prayer Time in Silence & Pastoral Prayer & Lords Prayer

HYMN "Be Still My Soul" CH #566 verse 1, 2, and 3

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 9: 8-17

Deacon Kevin Measimer

Gospel Readings: Mark 1: 9-15; 1 Peter 3: 15-22

Rev. Lee Ireland

Sermon

"In Times of Transition"

Rev. Lee Ireland

HYMN "Lord, Who Throughout these Forty Days" CH #180 verses 1-4

Benediction

Rev. Lee Ireland

Mindful of your mercy, forgiveness, and instruction, O God, we go into the world renewed, refreshed and full of courage to be your people. We go in peace to work for justice. 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