

**Closing Hymn:** "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" CH #433 all verses

**Benediction**

Let us go forth thankful that we have come and renewed in God's abiding love. Let us go forth rejoicing in the Good News, of Jesus Christ, whose love will never let us go. 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** "Holy Manna" **Mallet Melody, Handbell Choir**

**This Week's Participants:**

Bridge Pastor:	Rev. Lee Ireland
Organist:	Sue Stottlemeyer
Solo Bell Ringer:	Steve Mazeau,
Lay Reader:	Joan Jordan
Youth Director	Rachel Measimer
Videographer:	Richard Stottlemeyer
Video Editor:	Lisa Gorman
The Groton Congregational Choir & Handbell Choir	

**Announcements:**

**Women's Fellowship Ham and Potatoes Grab-n-Go Dinner Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. To reserve your dinners please call or email the office no later than May 9<sup>th</sup>. Bring exact change.**

**Zoom Meetings**

1- Don't forget about our Zoom Coffee Hour at 11:30am on May 2<sup>nd</sup>  
2- Our weekly Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 5:30pm and Bible Study at 6:30pm  
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



**May 2, 2021**

The Groton Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
May 2, 2021 10am  
Communion Sunday Fifth Sunday of Easter  
-We Gather in Community as God's People-

Prelude "All Creatures of Our God and King" Steve Mazeau, Solo ringer

Announcements

Call to Worship

Joan Jordan

One: As we gather, may we open our hearts to receive newness of life.

All: **We come with hope for renewal.**

One: In our time of worship, may we be inspired by God's wisdom.

All: **We come seeking to learn and to draw closer to God.**

One: Come, let us worship, as the beloved children of God.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

**O God, giver of life, we confess the times when we fail to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. God, forgive us when we ignore or fail to see our neighbors in need. Abiding God, also forgive us when we reject love from others, and shut down completely. And as we confess the times when we did not tend to our own needs and denied ourselves of your forgiveness and grace. In our failures, we have refused your invitation to grow closer to you. In our confession, O God, we pray your abiding love be shown through the ways we love more fully. Amen**

Words of Assurance

Rev. Lee A. Ireland

O God, hear your beloved community as we repent and pray for your forgiveness.

Give to us your grace and restore to us your love that is forgiven and fearless.

God, we desire for your loving Spirit to renew and strengthen us daily. Amen.

Hymn "All Creatures of Our God and King" Ch #22 all verses

-We Express Our Gratitude-

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem "Come Share the Lord"

Prayer of Dedication:

**Generous God, we offer you the fruits of our time, talents, and resources in celebration of all that we have been given. Loving God, we give you thanks for all that we have and ask a special blessing on the fruits we have given back to help meet the needs of your beloved community. May the gifts nourish and strengthen the community to grow spiritually, emotionally, and physically. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

Time For Children

Rachel Measimer

-We Share Our Concerns With God And Each Other-

Prayer Time in Silence

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Musical Interlude

-We Hear God's Words and Guidance For Our Lives-

Hebrew Scripture Psalm 22: 25-31

New Testament Readings John 15: 1-8; 1 John 4: 7-21

Sermon: "Abide in Me" Rev. Lee A. Ireland

Communion Hymn "I Come with Joy" CH#420 vs 1 &3

Sacrament of Communion

Invitation

Words of Consecration

Sharing of the Elements

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving:

**We give thanks, O God, because in your own free gift of love you have reached out to us. You have refreshed us at your table, touched our deepest needs, and called us to a life shared in memory and hope. Send us forth with courage and joy in the name of Jesus Christ, so that we, too, may become bread and peace for one another and the world. Bless us now as we give thanks for this meal and go renewed out into the world to share your profound love. Amen.**