

Groton Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
The Order of Morning Worship - Pentecost and Communion
May 23, 2021 --- Worship 10 a.m.
Welcome Home!

-We Gather in Community as God's People-

Prelude "The Spirit Song" by John Wimber Handbell Choir
Welcome Ellen Kerr

Call to Worship *

Leader: In those days, says the Lord
ALL: In those days after Jesus rose from the dead, in those days when no one really knew what was going on or what was going to happen –
Leader: In those days God exhaled the Holy Spirit. They gathered in quiet...
ALL: And then the wind picked up,
Leader: And their hair got ruffled,
ALL: And the Spirit, like little flames, danced above their heads,
Leader: And they all started talking in all sorts of languages.
ALL: It was loud and strange,
Leader: It was not quiet or peaceful, but –
ALL: In the midst of confusion, they knew that God was behind it all. God is here, too; let us worship God!

*HYMN "Spirit" CH#249

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)*

**Can you bottle a breeze? Can you blow out a forest fire? Can you help but breathe?
For those times we stifle your Spirit, O God;
For those times we ignore your whispers and shouts;
For those time when we turn away from your wonders and miracles:
Forgive us, we pray.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE*

Rev. Lee Ireland

Sisters and brothers in Christ, God's Spirit did not leave us after that first Pentecost. The breeze is loosed on the world. The fire is consumed. We breathe deeply, for indeed, we are forgiven. The Spirit is still with us, empowering us to know mercy and grace, forgiveness and service. In this Spirit, and through Christ, we proclaim the Good News: We are forgiven Alleluia! **Amen.**

*Song of Praise (Gloria Patri)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.

-We Express Our Gratitude-

Offering of Tithes and Gifts Rev. Lee Ireland
Offertory Anthem "Draw Us In The Spirit's Tether"
*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)**

Holy Spirit of God, we symbolically dedicate our lives through the dedication of our gifts. We ask for your bold winds to magnify and multiply our tangible gifts to further your work of liberation, justice, and charity here and around the world. Amen.

*HYMN "Spirit Song" CH#352

Time for Children Rachel Measimer

-We Share Our Concerns With God And Each Other-

Joys & Concerns of the Church in Prayer Rev. Lee Ireland
Prayer Time in Silence & Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer
Musical Response Sue Stottlemeyer

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

Hebrew Bible Reading: Psalm 104: 24-34
Gospel Reading: Acts 2: 1-21
Reading of the Acts 2 Passage in many languages
Sermon "The Spirit of Truth" Rev. Lee Ireland

Sacrament of Communion

Welcome and Invitation
Prayer of Consecration
Words of Institution and Distribution