

Groton Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
The Order of Morning Worship
Worship 10 a.m. Sunday July 11, 2021

Be silent, be thoughtful, be reverent for this is the house of the Lord. Before the service speak to God, during the service let God speak to you, after the service speak to one another. May the Holy Spirit be with you!

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Doris Pulaski

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, let us come into the House of the Holy One with song and dance.

People: **We have come to worship our God, the Creator of heaven and earth, seas, and rivers, and all that dwells within.**

Leader: The Lord of the Dance beckons us to join in this time of celebration and joy...

People: **That we might know that we are gathered in God's holy place.**

Leader: We join the psalmist with songs of the glory of the God of Hosts.

People: **We seek to know God's faithfulness and wisdom.**

All: **Let us enter God's rhythm of life and follow in the ways of the Word of God which will bring us home where dancing and joy will never end!**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that too often we have not been open to the rhythms of life you offer to us. We let ourselves be distracted from your pace and allow ourselves to wander off into our own songs. Too often the melodies of the world confuse us. We have led ourselves and others to paths that are not according to your loving pace and direction. Help us pay attention with all of our senses. Make our dancing faithful; help us take the risks that are part of letting you lead. Pull us back into your rhythms. Clean our hearts, purify our hands and steady our feet that we might know and share your blessings.

*** ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Rev. Lee Ireland

The God of Hosts assures us that if we trust God's Word, we will be led back to the songs

that God would have us sing. God is eager to show us the path home. Accept the offer of the new song we have been given through Jesus the Christ.

***Song of Praise (Gloria)** (No. 759 in the New Century Hymnal)

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. Amen.

***HYMN**

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

CH 61

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

***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)**

Rev. Lee Ireland

We delight in your Creation, Loving God. We rejoice in your hopes, visions and dreams. In a spirit of thanksgiving, we ask that you bless our offering and give us the courage to take these talents to build and not bury them as we continue to walk as the disciples of Jesus in the world today. Amen.

Children's Message

Rev. Lee and Connie Stoddard

***HYMN**

"Let Justice Flow Like Streams"

(see insert)

Joys & Concerns of the Church in Prayer

Prayer Time in Silence & Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Musical Interlude

Hebrew Scripture Reading:

2 Samuel 6: 1-5, 12b-19; Amos 7:7-15 Doris Pulaski

New Testament Reading:

Mark 6:14-29 Rev. Lee Ireland

Sermon

"The Plumb Line"

Rev. Lee Ireland

Communion

Let Justice Flow like Streams

588

Jane Parker Huber, 1984

Amos 5:14-15, 24; 7:7-8

1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spark - ling wa - ter, pure,
 2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
 3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,

En - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.
 An ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.
 And jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

This is one of two hymns Jane Parker Huber wrote for special events emphasizing economic justice for women at the time of the reunification of two Presbyterian denominations in 1983. The text's brevity underscores the urgency of Amos' pronouncements against injustice.

Tune: ST. THOMAS S.M.
 Aaron Williams' New Universal Psalmist, 1770

Sydney Carter, 1963

19th Century Shaker Tune

Unison G Em Bm Em Am
 1. I danced in the morn - ing when the world was be - gun, and I danced in the moon and the
 2. I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but they would not dance and they
 3. I danced on the sab - bath when I cured the lame, the ho - ly peo - ple
 4. I danced on a Fri - day and the sky turned black; it's hard to dance with the
 5. They cut me down and I leapt up high, I am the life that - 'll

D7 G Em
 stars and the sun, and I came down from heav - en and I
 would not fol - low me; I danced for the fish - er - men, for
 said it was a shame; they whipped and they stripped and they hung
 dev - il on your back; they bur - ied my bod - y and
 nev - er, nev - er die; I'll live in you if you'll

Bm Em Am D7 C G *Refrain* G Bm
 danced on the earth, At Beth - le - hem I had my birth.
 James and John; they came to me and the dance went on.
 me high; and they left me there on a cross to die. Dance, then, wher -
 they thought I'd gone, but I am the dance and I still go on.
 live in me; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

Em G Am D G C G D7 G
 - ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all wher - ev - er you may be, And I'll

C D7 G C G
 lead you all in the dance, said he.