

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 “Toplady” Austin Lovelace

***Those who are able, please stand.**

Enter to Worship

Depart to Serve

This Week’s Participants:

Interim Pastor:	Rev. Lee Ireland
Organist:	Sue Stottlemeyer
Lay Reader:	Ellen Kerr
Children’s Message	
Videographer:	Richard Stottlemeyer
Video Editor	Lisa Gorman
Sound Master	Lew Clark
The Groton Congregational Choir & Handbell Choir	

The Groton Congregational Church

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



July 18, 2021

Groton Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
The Order of Morning Worship
Worship 10 a.m. Sunday July18, 2021

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Ellen Kerr

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Psalm 23, adapted*)

One: As God is our shepherd, we need nothing else.

Many: **We rest in green pastures and walk by still waters, which renews and refreshes our spirits.**

One: God guides us along paths of righteousness

Many: **And walks with us through shadowed valleys so we are not afraid. The shepherd's staff comforts us.**

One: God set the banquet table for us in the presence of our enemies. There, we're anointed with oil and our cup overflows.

ALL: **Goodness and mercy shall never depart from us as long as we dwell in the house of God.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Caring and Gracious God, you are the shepherd who gathers us together today to celebrate with grateful thanksgiving the community in which we live. We are nourished by its diversity, brought about by the unique gifts each person contributes. Be with us in this time of worship and encourage us to never cease welcoming the strangers we meet and accepting the gifts they bring. Grant that they will enrich our lives and will be a reminder of the joy that comes when all will be one in you. Amen.

***HYMN**

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

CH #16

OFFERING

Think of the beginning of the 23rd Psalm and the words we pray every week, “Give us this day our daily bread.” Taken together, God promises to provide us with what we need to live today so we may see tomorrow. When we think of what we actually have, though, we have more than enough. We give honor and thanks to God when we make our generous offering from our abundance.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“The Gift of Love”

Senior Choir

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Thank you, God, for the ministries of the people of your church. Thank you, God, for the bounty of your blessings you have poured out upon us. We have taken a portion of our abundance and given it to you in grateful thanksgiving. Consecrate this offering. May it help to support the ministries of this church that will dismantle the walls that divide us so all people will be one in the new family gathered in Christ Jesus. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

JOYS & CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

***HYMN**

“Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us”

CH #558

SCRIPTURE:

Jeremiah 23: 1-6

Psalm 23

Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56

SERMON:

“How Deep Is Your Love”

***CLOSING HYMN**

“We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky”

CH #684

BENEDICTION