

Benediction

Go forth into the world. Be for one another as Ruth and Naomi were for each other.
Go on the journey together, wherever it may lead you. Share the gifts of God with the people of God.
Be gentle and bold, courageous, and trusting. God will be with you, this day and always.

Benediction Response “Go Now in Peace”

Choir

*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 “Ein Feste Burg ist Unser Gott”

Walcha

Announcements:

Coffee Hour—begins after service in Dutton Hall. At 11:30 today there is a Trustees’ and a CE group meeting.

Holiday Bazaar—will be held on November 13th from 9am to 2pm in Dutton Hall. Come shop for unique holiday gifts, homemade crafts, stocking stuffers and bid at the silent auction. There will be baked goods and delicious sandwiches to go.

Grammies Jammies--Missions will be doing Grammies Jammies again this year. A display board is now set up in Dutton Hall to pick a tag with the size and gender of a preschool child from the Early Childhood Development Center. The last day to turn in tags and pajamas is December 12th when they will be blessed before being delivered to the center. (Ziplock bags are available next to the board to place pjs and tags in.)

Wednesday Evening Prayer and Bible Study—the **Prayer Meeting** begins at 6:00pm every Wednesday. Bible Study will resume in mid-November. If you are not receiving our Zoom invitations, please contact the office

Designated Term Pastor - Reverend Lee A. Ireland
Director of Music - Susanne Stottlemeyer
Youth Group Director - Rachel Candee
Videographer—Richard Stottlemeyer
Church Secretary—Lisa Gorman

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Groton Congregational Church

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



Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 7, 2021

Groton Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

The Order of Worship

November 7, 2021

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Welcome

Joan Jordan

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: From the ends of the earth, we are gathered together;

People: The poor, and the rich, the joyful, the sorrowful, the honored and feeling despised-

Leader: All are gathered in one community,

People: Reflecting the love and life of God.

All: We have come from many worlds. Let us worship God as one!

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

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: We know that we are already rich but refuse to see those in our midst who live on meager resources. In fact, we find it comes naturally to ignore those who have the most to teach us. We don't want to acknowledge that it is often those with the least who give the most. It embarrasses us each time we are reminded of the examples of Ruth and the poor widow. We are experts with prayers that make us feel important and we assume that special recognition is due to us. We expect special privileges. We speak of our belief that you will provide for all that we need—resources and partners on life's journey. Yet, we still don't give ourselves over to your promises. Even with our wealth, perhaps because of our wealth, we need help to live faithfully. Forgive us, we pray. Lead us to live boldly as witnesses to the strength we have in Christ Jesus.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Take heart. God gives new life, even to those who hold back from giving fully of themselves or who think God has abandoned them. Let yourselves be restored to God and each other, knowing that God will provide without limit.

***HYMN** "Gather Us In"

CH #284

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Cathy Blaisdell Johnson

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Cathy Blaisdell Johnson

***HYMN**

"We Plow the Fields and Scatter"

(see insert)

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory Anthem "Lead Me Lord"

Wesley

***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)

We lift up these offerings as a sign of our gratitude for your love and care, O God.

We pledge ourselves, time, talent, and treasure. We pray that we may follow in the spirit of the poor woman who gave her all without hesitation. We dedicate our lives to you and seek to grow in our faithfulness to your Word. Amen.

Joys & Concerns of the Church in Prayer

Prayer Time in Silence & Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer (debts)

***HYMN**

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

CH #73

Hebrew Bible Reading: Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17; 1 Kings 17:8-16

Joan Jordan

Gospel Reading: Mark 12:38-44

Sermon "You Can't Out-Give God" {a Rev. Dutton quote}

Rev. Lee Ireland

Communion Interlude

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: (Unison)

Gracious Lord, we give thanks 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, that we, too, may become bread and peace for one another and for the world. Amen.

***HYMN**

"Go, My Children, With My Blessing"

CH #431