

Welcome and Announcements

Deacon

Prelude

What A Friend We Have In Jesus
(based on "Converse") arr. by Franklin Ritter

Norman McFarlane

Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 119: 1-8)

Deacon

One: Happy are those who walk in the way of God.

All: Happy are those who yearn for God with their whole hearts.

One: Happy are those who diligently keep God's Word.

All: Happy are those who are steadfast in seeking God's Spirit.

One: Come, let all who know such happiness praise God together!

All: With upright hearts, joy-full souls and glad voices, we come before our God this day with praise and thanksgiving!

Gathering HymnPraise to the Living God*

NCH 8

Unison Prayer of Invocation

In our yearning to be happy, dear God, we often turn to material things...status among our peers...and winning over our opponents in order to satisfy our yearning. In these sacred moments of worship, please speak to our whole hearts to remind us that true happiness is found with you. May we be listening intently to hear your voice in the words and melodies of hymns and anthems...in verses of scripture...in the giggling of children...and in precious pauses of holy silence. And when our souls have been filled with such divine happiness, send us forth to spread the gift of happiness extravagantly and ceaselessly with all we meet. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Message for All

Sarah Pradhan

Deacons will collect Joy and Concern cards at this time.

Children are invited to join the Pathfinders program.

This Little Light of Mine (one verse)

Scripture

Deacon

As we hear the words of scripture

Let us listen in the words for the Word of God.

Ezra 3: 8-13 (New Revised Standard Version)

8 In the second year after their arrival at the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Jeshua son of Jozadak made a beginning, together with the rest of their people, the priests and the Levites and all who had come to Jerusalem from the captivity. They appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upwards, to have the oversight of the work on the house of the Lord. ⁹And Jeshua with his sons and his kin, and Kadmiel and his sons, Binnui and Hodaviah along with the sons of Henadad, the Levites, their sons and kin, together took charge of the workers in the house of God.

10 When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments were stationed to praise the Lord with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, according to the directions of King David of Israel; ¹¹and they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord,

‘For he is good, for his steadfast love endures for ever towards Israel.’

And all the people responded with a great shout when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. ¹²But many of the priests and Levites and heads of families, old people who had seen the first house on its foundations, wept with a loud voice when they saw this house, though many shouted aloud for joy, ¹³so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people’s weeping, for the people shouted so loudly that the sound was heard far away.

The grass withers and the flower fades
But the Word of God shall stand forever

Message “Mixed Emotions” The Rev. Chuck Ericson

Choir Anthem *Standing in the Need of Prayer*
arr. by William Farley Smith

Prayers of the People for the World The Rev. Chuck Ericson

The Lord’s Prayer The Rev. Chuck Ericson

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory, now and forever. Amen.**

***Sending Hymn** *Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant?* NCH 539

***Benediction** The Rev. Chuck Ericson

***Parting Song** *God Be With You ‘Till We Meet Again (modified)*

**God be with You till we meet again.
By God’s counsels guide, uphold you.
God will place arms all around you.
God be with you till we meet again.**

Postlude *Profession of Faith* Norman McFarlane
Todd Kendall

Our Guest Minister

Rev. Chuck Ericson is a retired UCC minister who currently lives in Hebron with his wife Jane. He began his education in the Wethersfield public schools and followed that up receiving a B.S. in Psychology from Trinity College and an M.Div. from Andover Newton Theological School. Chuck served as pastor of the Bolton Congregational Church for 32 years and more recently served as an Interim Regional Minister as the Southern New England Conference of the UCC was being formed. He has assisted church leaders in preparing for pastoral transitions, searching for interim and permanent pastoral leadership, and mediating conflicts. Chuck, a longtime supporter of the Silver Lake Conference Center, has also been active as a facilitator and trainer and served as the Director and Primary Teacher for the Hartford Seminary’s Associates in Christian Education program for 12 years.

Chuck enjoys hiking, golf, songwriting and playing guitar and in 2007 released a CD featuring 12 original Christmas themed songs entitled "Pause".

Rev. Chuck Ericson will have office hours on Thursdays. On 3/9, he will be available 2-7. Other Thursdays, he will be here 9am-3pm. Call 860-653-4537 to make an appointment.

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We affirm the dignity and worth of every person, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, race, mental or physical ability or sexual orientation. We offer sacraments and rites to all who enter our circle of faith. We celebrate the gifts that each person brings to Granby Congregational Church and invite them to share in all areas of its service, leadership, activities, responsibilities and privileges.