

February 19, 2023

Order of Worship

10:00am

An asterisk () indicates times when you are invited to stand. Selections in BOLD are responses spoken by the congregation.*

Welcome and Announcements

Deacon

Prelude

In the Stillness of This Hour
Gary Davidson

Norman McFarlane

Call to Worship

(Based on Psalm 99: 9)

Deacon

One: In ancient times, God's people gathered to worship at a holy mountain.

All: In generations that followed, the faithful assembled in the Temple.

One: Ages later, Jesus' disciples worshiped in private homes and borrowed spaces.

All: Though places of worship may change, one thing remains constant:

One: It is our God who calls us into community, uniting us in love.

All: May God's love surround and inspire us as we worship together today!

*Gathering Hymn

Help Us Accept Each Other

NCH 388

Unison Prayer of Invocation

Gathering God, we know that any place can be a holy place when we come together as your people. This morning, this sanctuary is our sacred space. Here, we feel your warm presence in precious moments of prayer and silent meditation; we behold your love and affirmation in the smiling faces of others around us; we feel your joy overflowing in the welcome mingling of children in our midst; and our souls are stirred and uplifted as your Spirit reaches out to us in the words and music of our faith. May our hearts be opened, and our minds alert, to all the ways you are revealed to us now, Holy One, so that we may be equipped and empowered to serve you in our daily living this week. 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 attend the Pathfinders program at this time.

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.

Acts 2:42-47 (New Revised Standard Version)

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

43 Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. 44 All who believed were together and had all things in common; 45 they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The grass withers and the flower fades

But the Word of God shall stand forever

Message "Having Favor With All the People" The Rev. Chuck Ericson

Choir Anthem *Lord, We Pray Thee*
John Varley Roberts (1841-1920 (arr. by Carl F. Mueller)

Prayers of the People for the World

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** *I Would Be True* NCH 492

***Benediction** The Rev. Chuck Ericson

Postlude *Sing Praise to God* Norman McFarlane
Lani Smith (1934-2015)

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".

In addition to working from home, Chuck plans to be present in the North Campus Church Office on Thursdays. This week he plans to be present from 9:00am - 3:00pm.

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This is an Open and Affirming Church

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.

No matter who you are or where you are on your faith journey, you are welcome here!