

February 26, 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

Give Me Jesus
(Traditional African American Spiritual) arr. by Douglas E. Wagner

Norman McFarlane

Call to Worship

(Based on Psalm 99: 9)

Deacon

One: In the days of our ancestors, God spoke from within a burning bush.

All: Later on, God spoke through a pillar of cloud.

One: Again and again, God has spoken through prophets and dreamers.

All: And in the fullness of time, God spoke through the voice of Jesus.

One: As the hour of worship now begins, God will still be speaking.

All: Our spirits are poised, our ears are listening — come, let us worship!

*Gathering Hymn

Unto Thy Temple, Lord We Come

PH 276

Unison Prayer of Invocation

As we celebrate Black History this month, dear God, we hear the voices of many who inspire us to seek justice in our world today, like the voices of Amanda, William and Common. Before them, the challenge to build a more just world was heard in the voices of Martin, Harriet and Rosa.

Throughout time, the voices of courageous souls calling for justice echoed the message of Jesus, who stood with the oppressed...preached about the worth and dignity of us all...and taught us to always love one another — with no exceptions. In these voices, and countless others, may we always discern your voice, O Holy One, each time we gather here — and then continuing to whisper in our souls through the week ahead as we labor and serve in our communities, workplaces and homes.

We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Message for All

Sarah Pradhan

Deacons will collect Joy and Concern cards at this time.

Fourth Sunday Food Collection

Children are invited to attend the Pathfinders program at this time.

This Little Light of Mine (one verse)

Bell Choir Anthem

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus
arr. by Terry Osman

Scripture

Deacon

As we hear the words of scripture

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

Matthew 4: 1-11 (Revised Common Lectionary)

4:1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished.

3 The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." 4 But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the

temple, 6 saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" 7 Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; 9 and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." 10 Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

11 Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

Message "Into the Wilderness" The Rev. Chuck Ericson

Choir Anthem *Rock-a My Soul*
(African American Spiritual) arr. by Hal H. Hopson

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.**

Prayer Response *O Lord, Hear My Prayer* Choir
Jacques Berthier

***Sending Hymn** *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian* PH 353

***Our Unison Commissioning and Benediction** The Rev. Chuck Ericson
**Together we go forth into the world to serve God with gladness!
One with another, we commit ourselves to:
Being of good courage and holding fast to what is good;
Rendering no one evil for evil, and strengthening the faint-hearted;
Supporting the weak and helping the afflicted;
Honoring all people;
Loving and serving God;
And rejoicing always in the Holy Spirit.
May the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion
Of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.**

Benediction Response *Choral Amen* Choir
Tim Reid

Annual Financial Meeting will start following worship in the Sanctuary.

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!