

March 5, 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

*Diapason Movement*  
George Green (18th century)

Norman McFarlane

### Call to Worship

Deacon

One: In the beginning, God said: "Let there be light."

**All: And there was light.**

One: The light began to shine over all Creation.

**All: The light of the sun shone during the day...**

One: ...and the light of the moon and stars shone at night.

**All: God's light has never ceased to shine upon our world and in our lives.**

One: God's light greeted us this morning, and has beckoned here to this place.

**All: Rejoicing in the glory of God's light, let us worship God together now!**

### \*Gathering Hymn

*We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding*

NCH 182

### Unison Prayer of Invocation

**Blessed Creator, every morning we are greeted by your gift of light that first appeared at the dawning of the universe. And as each day unfolds, your light brings forth more and more blessings — as oceans and rivers, flowers and trees, hills and valleys, all overflow with beauty and glory when bathed in your light. As we continue through this season of Lent, we yearn to grow closer to Jesus, "the Light of the world". May our hearts and minds be opened now to your holy presence in this hour of worship, so that we may more fully embody Jesus' challenge to become "lights of the world" ourselves in this place and this age. In Jesus' Name. Amen.**

### Message for All

Sarah Pradhan

*Deacons will collect Joy and Concern cards at this time.*

*It is a "we all worship together Sunday." There will be no Sunday School. After the message for all, children are welcome to spend time in the playground or sit with their grownups.*

### Scripture

Deacon

As we hear the words of scripture

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

Matthew 17: 1-9 (New Revised Standard Version)

17:1 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. <sup>2</sup>And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>3</sup>Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. <sup>4</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>5</sup>While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud

overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" <sup>6</sup>When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. <sup>7</sup>But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." <sup>8</sup>And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. <sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

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

**Communion Meditation**                      "Jesus Bedazzled"                      The Rev. Chuck Ericson

**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.**

**Choir Anthem**                      *I Am The Bread of Life*  
S. Suzanne Toolan

## **Holy Communion**

### **Invitation**

One: Luke, the evangelist, wrote of our risen Savior, who at the table with two of the disciples took bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened, and they recognized the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.

**All: In company with all believers in every time and beyond time, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.**

### **Communion Prayer**

One: God be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to God.**

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made. We thank you for all that sustains life, for all people of faith in every generation who have given themselves to your will, and especially for Jesus Christ, whom you have sent from your own being as our Savior. We praise you for Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection, and for the calling forth of your church for its mission in the world. Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere.

**All: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest!**

One: Merciful God, as sisters and brothers in faith, we recall anew these words and acts of Jesus Christ. Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat: this is my body." Jesus took a cup and after giving thanks, gave it to the disciples and said: "Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." We remember Christ's promise not to drink of the fruit of the vine again until the heavenly banquet at the close of history, and we say boldly what we believe:

**All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

One: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread, and bless the fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died.

**All: Amen.**

## Sharing of the Elements

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: Let us pray

**All: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

### \*Sending Hymn

*I am the Light of the World*

NCH 584

### \*Benediction

The Rev. Chuck Ericson

One: Let us go forth into the new seasons of our lives.

**All: We go forth into growing and changing and living.**

One: Let us go with caring awareness for the world and all that is in it.

**All: We go to discover the needs and opportunities around us.**

One: Let us go forth in peace and be led out in joy.

**All: We go in God's continuing presence, with the power to love and the strength to serve. Amen.**

### Postlude

*Prelude and Fughetta*

Norman McFarlane

Johann Kaspar Ferdinand Fischer (1656-1746)

### **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".

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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 life or faith journey, you are welcome here!