

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

March 25, 2016

Thoughts before the Service Begins

Every year is costly,
As you know well. Nothing
Is given that is not
Taken, and nothing taken
That was not first a gift.

The gift is balanced by
Its total loss, and yet,
And yet the light breaks in...(Wendell Berry)

*(We ask that you turn off the ringers on your cell phones,
beepers and electronic devices. Please join us in
a time of quiet during the prelude.)*

Prelude Evening Falls (Enya, Roma Ryan)

Welcome Amy Grosso, Worship Leader

Opening Words Karen G. Johnston, Sabbatical Minister

Reflections on the First Words, followed by silence

Forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.
[Luke 23:34]

The Weighing by Jane Hirshfield

Music On the Willow (Stephen Schwartz)

Reflections on the Second Words, followed by silence

Truly, I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.
[Luke 23:43]

The Uses of Sorrow by Mary Oliver

Music Soon (Jon Anderson)

Reflections on the Third Words, followed by silence

Woman, here is your son. Here is your mother.
[John 19:26-27]

Heavy by Mary Oliver

Music Bring Him Home (Boublil, Schonberg)

Reflections on the Fourth Words, followed by silence

*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani My God, my God, why have
you forsaken me?* [Mark 15:34]

Sonnets to Orpheus II, 29 by Rainer Maria Rilke

Music Beware of Darkness (George Harrison)

Reflections on the Fifth Words, followed by silence

I thirst. [John 19:28]

Thirst by Mary Oliver

Music On Your Shore (Enya)

Reflections on the Sixth Words, followed by silence

It is finished. [John 19:30]

Kindness by Naomi Shihab Nye

Music Goodbye (Elton John, Bernie Taupin)

Reflections on the Seventh Words, followed by silence

Into your hands I commend my spirit. [Luke 23:46]

Sweet Darkness by David Whyte

Closing Words Karen G. Johnston

Postlude John 19:41 (Andrew Lloyd-Webber)

Please remain seated during the Postlude.

You are welcome to sit in quiet as long as you like.

You are also welcome to light silent candles for your own prayers, joys or sorrows. Please take a small candle from the basket, light from the chalice and place the candle in the sand table.

Special thanks to Shawn McCann for providing music for this service. Thank you to Amy Grosso as Worship Leader and to Loretto Roney as usher. Thanks also to the readers: Jennifer Peterson, Laura Williams, Steve Boczenowski, Christina Rogers, Michelle Stiller, Judy Nauman and Tom Nalesnik

The Good
Fridays of our lives come unbidden and unexpected
Bringing the winter of
despair and the death of dreams and hope
Only love has the power to mend what
has been broken
A love that brings healing to our wounds
A love that
offers hope when we have none
A love that creates unity where there is
conflict
A love that instills new life into lifeless brown husks
May this
great love be in you, upon you, and among you
Now and through all of your
days (Andrew Pakula)

FIRST PARISH CHURCH Good Friday Service *Groton, Massachusetts*



We are a community seeking to deepen spiritually, to take care of one another, and to be a blessing to the world."

Childcare is available during the service
on the second floor of the East Wing