

Large Print Hymnals, Sunday Bulletins and Assisted Listening Devices are available at the sanctuary doors. If you don't wish to keep your Sunday Bulletin, please place it one of the recycle baskets at the sanctuary exits.

Join us downstairs for good food and conversation immediately following the service!

Flowers for this Sunday's Service are donated by Pamela Worden in honor of her parents, Robert and Annette Worden.

Greeters: Barbara Rich, Tom Roney and John Appleton
Ushers: Loretto Roney and Pat Fairchild
Coffee Hour Host: Sam Mayer Svarczkopf

First Parish Church is a Welcoming Congregation. We joyfully welcome all!

FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



Church Sunset by Hatzy Hornblower

Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared.
- Buddha

Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud.
- Maya Angelou

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

For more information Please visit our website: www.uugroton.org and our Facebook page at First Parish Church of Groton, MA

A Warm Welcome to All!

There is childcare for infants and toddlers through age three years beginning at 9:50 AM on the second floor of the East Wing and you are welcome to take children there at any time during the service. There are quiet toys in the soft, multicolored fabric pouches and picture books in each pew. The service is also broadcast downstairs in the large room beneath us if anyone needs to take a break.

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

December 4, 2016

Ringing of the Bell Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

Thoughts as the Service Begins:

One discovers the light in darkness. That's what the darkness is for.
But everything in our lives depends on how we bear the light.

(James Baldwin)

*(We ask that you turn off the ringers on your cell phones, beepers
and electronic devices, and the flashes on your cameras.*

Please join us in a time of quiet during the prelude.)

Prelude Capriccio (W.A. Mozart)

Call to Worship May This Light Shine (Agnes V. Paulsen)
Children's Choir

Welcome and Announcements Sue Lotz, Worship Leader

***Hymn** For the Earth Forever Turning #163

Chalice and Advent Wreath Lighting Donna & Sarah Stram

Response Hymn *(please remain seated)* Spirit of Life #123
Spanish trans. Rev. Lilia Cuervo and Ervin Barrios

Fuente de Amor, ven hacia mí.

Y al corazón, cántale tu compasión.

Sopla al volar, sube en la mar;

Hasta moldear la justicia de la vida.

Arráigame, libérame,

Fuente de Amor, ven a mí, ven a mí.

Spirit of Life, come unto me.

Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.

Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;

Move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.

Roots hold me close; wings set me free;

Spirit of life, come to me, come to me

A Time for All Generations

Anthem Moonlight Whispers (Wendy Bartel)
– Children's Choir

Singing the Children and Teachers to Religious Education

Children's Blessing *(First UU Nashville Youth Choir)*

May your mind be open to new learning

May your lips bring truth into the world

May your heart know love, and your hands do the work of
justice

As you go your way in peace

As you go your way in peace

*Welcome! Children will gather downstairs in the Vestry – the big
room below us – for a game playing Sunday.*

Candles of Celebration and Concern

*(You are invited to come forward, introduce yourself, briefly share a
personal and heartfelt joy or sorrow, light your candle from the
chalice and place it on the candle table. Before you speak, please take
a moment to gather your thoughts into one or two sentences.)*

Spoken Prayer and Silent Meditation Rev. Elea Kemler

Offertory Aria (J.H. Knecht)

Offertory Response *(Words: Melinda Green; Music: Shawn McCann)*

We thank each other for these gifts

Which makes our giving bless-ed.

We bless the works our gifts sustain

And pray they ripple outward.

With grace and generosity

We show our faith enacted.

Sermon How We Bear the Light Rev. Elea Kemler

***Hymn** Life Calls Us On (Gibbons, Shelton) insert

***Sung Benediction** #414

As we leave this friendly place,

love give light to every face.

May the kindness which we've learned,

light our hearts 'til we return.

Postlude Voluntary I (Samuel Wesley)

*(Please remain seated during the Postlude. You are also invited to come to
the front of the church and light a candle silently during this time. Please
place your candle toward the back of the candle table. We ask the
congregation to remain seated in quiet until the last candle is lit.)*

***Please stand if you are able.**