

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

December 11, 2016

**Ringing of the Bell** Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

## A Thought as the Service Begins:

...the mind always wants more than it has --  
one more bright day of sun,  
one more clear night in bed  
with the moon; one more hour to get the words right; one  
more chance for the heart in hiding  
to emerge from its thicket  
in dried grasses -- as if this quiet day  
with its tentative light weren't enough,  
as if joy weren't strewn all around. (Holly Hughes)

*(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** Fugue III (J.C. Kellner)

**Call to Worship** Jubilate Deo (Michael Praetorius) Open Choir

**Welcome and Announcements** Irv Rockwood, Worship Leader

**\*Hymn** Morning Has Broken #38

**Chalice Lighting** Barbara Rich

**Lighting the Advent Wreath** The 5<sup>th</sup> grade Spirit Explorers

**Response Hymn** *(please remain seated)* #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

**Blessing the Spirit Explorers** Tom and Loretto Roney  
Leo Dawson, Lena Donovan, Abby Kramer,  
Henry Mayer Svarczkopf, Hannah Podsiadlo

**Anthem** The Gift of Love (traditional; arr. Hal Hopson) Open 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 – to meet their teachers and join in a circle of friends.  
Then each group will go with their teachers to their meeting space.*

## Blessing Pat and Jay Lawrence and Saying Goodbye

**Spoken Prayer and Silent Meditation** Rev. Elea Kemler

**Offertory** Nun Dankey Alle Gott (H.W. Tauscher)

**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** Joy Strewn All Around Rev. Elea Kemler

**\*Hymn** O Come, O Come Emmanuel #225

**\*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** Spiritoso (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 as you are able**

*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.*

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

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Flowers for this Sunday's Service are donated by Anne McGinty.

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Greeters: Deb Boczenowski, Judy Nauman and Suzanne Nelson  
Ushers: Peg Lorenz and Trish Garrigan  
Coffee Hour Host: Sam Mayer Svarczkopf

**WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS.** We are so glad you are here. Join us for coffee, tea and conversation after the service in the Vestry, the large room beneath us, where you can meet our minister Rev. Elea Kemler and visit the Welcome Table to learn more about us. Everyone here is happy to speak with you and answer any questions you may have. Please sign one of the Guest Books on the tables near the front and back entrances so we can know who you are and send you the monthly print newsletter and weekly emails about life at First Parish.

*WE NOW HAVE AN OFFICIAL HASHTAG: #UUGROTON. Please consider using this when posting about our church and its good works on all social media*

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

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



*artwork by Natalie Guilmette*

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](http://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.