

**FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON**

Saturday, December 24, 2016 – 5:30 PM Service

**A Thought as the Service Begins**

We are here to gather in the deep, dark night,  
and sing with the circling constellations  
as we celebrate, again, the ancient winter festival of Hope.  
May the lights we kindle here together  
Be signs to us of the strength and wisdom of the old story we  
tell tonight:  
the story of a baby born in poverty, the story of the birth of a  
child whose life changed the world.  
May these lights, which burn like stars in the darkness,  
be a sign to us that tomorrow's peace on earth  
can begin today,  
when we act with compassion toward all people.  
Blessed is this silent night, alive with wisdom.  
Blessed is this silent night, which gives birth to light.  
And blessed are you, Love: our Star, our Joy,  
our Journey, our Beginning, and our End. (Mark Belletini)

*(Hannah and Jacob Podsiadlo will light the four white candles  
on the advent wreath.)*

*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** Ductia on Riu Riu Chiu (Dennis Janzer)

**Call to Worship** Jubilate Deo (Michael Praetorius)  
Children's Choir and Youth Choir

**Welcome and Announcements** Amy Grosso, Worship Leader

**\*Carol O Come All Ye Faithful**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come, ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him, born the king of angels;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Lo, humble shepherds, Hasting to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks in the fields, draw near.  
We, too, with gladness, thither bend our footsteps,  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:  
Glory to God in the highest,  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

**Lighting of the Chalice** Meghan Porter Marshall, Eric  
Marshall, William, Jane and Tommy Marshall

**Lighting the First Candle on the Menorah**  
Laura Scolnick and Natalie Guilmette

**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.  
Arrágame, 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** Oskar and the Eight Blessings by  
Richard Simon and Tanya Simon, illustrated by Mark Seigal

**Anthem** Carol of the Bells (Leontivich) Youth Choir

**\*Carol          Angels We Have Heard on High**

*(Children with or without halos and crowns are invited to parade around the sanctuary during the hymn!)*

Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why these songs of happy cheer?  
What great brightness did you see?  
What glad tidings did you hear?

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing:  
Come, adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**Telling the Christmas Story *(with the help of the children)***

Rev. Elea Kemler, Amy Grosso. Brenna Mayer

**Offertory                  O Come, Little Children (William Rose)**

*(Tonight's offering is for the Caring Committee, which supports needs within the congregation and helps strangers and friends who come to our doors in need. Thank you for your generosity. If you are in need of a gas or grocery card tonight, please speak to the minister after the service.)*

**Candle Lighting Ceremony          \*Silent Night**

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,  
glories stream from heaven afar,

heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia,"  
Christ the savior is born, Christ the savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

**\*Hymn                  Joy to the World!**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders, of his love.

**Benediction**

Rev. Elea Kemler

**Postlude**

O Holy Night (Adolphe Adam)

**Ringing of the Church Bells**

Rebecca Pike, First Parish Bell Ringer

\*Please stand as you are able.

*Join us downstairs for cookies and cider immediately following the service. Caroling will take place from 6:45 – 7:15 pm in the large room beneath us. All are very welcome to stay.*

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Tonight's flowers are given by Nancy LaFosse and Kira and Jared LaFosse-Baker in memory of Denis LaFosse, who kept the spirit of Christmas all year long.

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***Special thanks to all who helped with this evening's service:***

Music: Shawn McCann, Director of Music, First Parish Church and the Children's Choir and Youth Choir

Candlelight Bearers: Meredith Hill, Abby Kramer, Amelia Luening, Sarah Stram

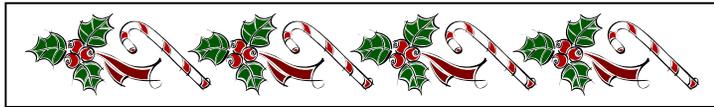
Children's Parade Leader: Kira Hill

Ushers: Suzanne Nelson, Jackie, Jim, Trevor, Will and Jon Frey

Greeters: Tom Roney, Michelle Stiller

Fellowship Hosts: The Frey Family

Fire Safety: Rick Muehlke



**WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS.** We are so glad you are here. Join us 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**



*Art by: Hatzy Hornblower*

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

**A Warm Welcome to All!**

Tonight's service is for all ages. There are quiet toys in the fabric pouches and picture books in each pew. The service is also broadcast downstairs in the large room beneath us if adults or children need to take a break.