

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

Saturday, December 24, 2016 – 7:30 PM Service

A Thought as the Service Begins:

In this night
Let something be born in us
That heals the brokenness
That does not bow down to hatred and fear
But rather meets them and offers them love
Let us, this night, choose all the gifts of life we are offered. (Lois Van Leer, adapted)

Jared La-Fosse Baker will light the advent wreath

(We ask that you turn off the ringer on your cell phones as well as the flash on your cameras. Please join us in quiet during the prelude.)

Prelude In Dulci Jubilo (J.S. Bach)

Call to Worship Jubilate Deo (Praetorius) Adult Choir

Welcome Karen Goudey, 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

Hannah Tellier

Lighting of the Menorah

Steve Lieman

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

Reading from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke Anya Harter

Anthem There Is No Rose (Benjamin Britten) Adult Choir

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

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

Reading To Find the Child by Steve Garnass-Holmes, adapted
read by Kathryn Wheeler and Clara O'Rourke

Prayer

Congregational Response:

Wherever the world is in darkness, let us bring light.

Offertory Of the Father's Love Begotten (arr. David Lasky)

(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.)

***Hymn In the Bleak Mid Winter**

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter Long ago.

Our God, Heav'n cannot hold Him
Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter, a stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air,
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the Beloved With a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give Him, Give my heart.

Reflections Something New is Trying to Get Itself Born
Rev. Elea Kemler

Anthem The Ground (Ola Gjeilo) Adult Choir

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.**

Large print hymnals, large print bulletins and assisted listening devices are available from the ushers.

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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.

Special Thanks to those who helped with the service:

Music: Shawn McCann, Director of Music at First Parish, the Adult Choir, Kurt Staven on trumpet

Greeters: Deb Boczenowski, June Johnson, Steve Lieman

Ushers: Bernadette Dureault, Charles Faucher, Suzanne Nelson, Pamela Worden

Candlelight Bearers: Allegra Harris, Midori Harris, Kira LaFosse-Baker, Jared LaFosse-Baker

Fire Safety: John Appleton, Ian Peterson, Charlie Peterson

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



Artwork by Carol Sarasin

"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 children or adults need to take a break.