

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

December 25, 2016

Prelude: *“What Child Is This?”*

Thoughts as the Service Begins:

When the song of angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among the brothers, to make music in the heart. — *Howard Thurman*

(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.)

Call to Worship

Worship leader: Come all that are faithful, and all that seek faith.

Congregation: It is the season to sing and pray.

Leader: The symbol of new hope and spirit shines, the spirit of peace.

Congregation: And we would follow and find that peace.

Leader: We now have a promise fulfilled...

All: That the Christ who is born will lead us to a new life of faith and action! Amen.

Music: *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”* (verses 1 & 2) # 253

Invocation

Leader: We gather here by habit or by accident, from lives frantic or serene. We gather here, young, old, in middle age, all of us children whose names you know by heart. We gather here, each of us hoping for a new word, a gentle touch, a nudge in the right direction, straight into the arms of love. Amen.

Welcome & Announcements

Chalice Lighting, Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Response Hymn

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.

Prayer

Reading: *“Seeds & Greetings”*

Music: *“It Came Upon The Midnight Clear”* #244

Message: *“Christmas Memories - Angels Among Us”*

Music: *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”* see back page

Closing Words

If you have found freedom here, take it with you into the world.
If you have found comfort, go and share it with others.
If you have dreamed dreams, help one another, that they may come true!
If you have known love, give some back to a bruised and hurting world.
Go in peace. Amen.

Postlude: *Coventry Carol*



Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, Glory to the new-born king!

Gracious bond of earth and sky, Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise all here on earth, Born to give us second birth.
Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings. Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the new-born king!



FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



A Simple Groton Christmas Morn

"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 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.