

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

December 17, 2017

Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

A Thought as the Service Begins:

In this weary world we too often wake wondering
what shattering of the heart today will bring
In this world Joy is an of resistance
and singing too

Hope is a stubborn practice
an insistent assertion that not everything can be undone

So let us come now, determined to lift up our eyes
to the beauty that remains even now

Let us come to lift our voices with brave boldness
let us lean into one another...with gratitude

Let us be resolute

we are still here, and still together, unwilling to forsake
forgiveness, kindness, friendship, love

Unwilling to concede any part of ourselves or our world
to anything other than grace and goodness

Look around. Everything we need is here. (Gretchen Haley)

*(We ask that you put your electronic devices in "worship mode" by
turning off all ringers. Please also turn off the flash on your camera.*

Join us in a time of quiet during the prelude.)

Prelude

O Tanenbaum (Vince Guaraldi)

Welcome and Announcements:

Donna Stram, Worship Leader

*Hymn

Deck the Hall with Boughs of Holly

#235

Chalice and Advent Wreath Lighting

Marge Kimpton and

Sarah Stram, Coming of Age Mentor and Youth

Menorah Lighting

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.

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

Candles of Celebration and Concern

You are invited to come forward, introduce yourself, briefly share a heartfelt joy or sorrow in a sentence or two, 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. If you prefer to write down your joy or sorrow for inclusion in today's prayer, rather than light a spoken candle, fill out one of the cards in your pew. The ushers will collect cards as children and youth are sung from the sanctuary. There is also a basket on the candle table and you can put your card in it any time before the prayer.)

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

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Offertory

Skating (Vince Guaraldi)

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 is an Act of Resistance, and Singing Too

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 Christmas Time is Here (Vince Guaraldi)

(You are invited to come to the front of the church and light a candle silently during the Postlude. We ask the congregation to remain seated until the last candle; if you are not able to stay, please leave quietly.)

***Please stand as you are able.**

Large Print Hymnals, Sunday Bulletins and Assisted Listening Devices are available at the sanctuary doors.

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

The flowers in church this morning are given in honor of
Alex Luening's birthday.

Ushers: Anne and Molly McGinty

Greeters: Carol Swift, Carol Bousquet, Nancy Burdine

Coffee Hosts: Dmitri Foster, Jacob Tessier, Kiernan DeMeis-Dullea

About Today's Music:

Vince Guaraldi (July 17, 1928 – February 6, 1976) was an American jazz pianist noted for his innovative compositions and arrangements and for composing music for animated television adaptations of the Peanuts comic strip, as well as his performances on piano as a member of Cal Tjader's late 50s ensemble and his own solo career which included the radio hit "Cast Your Fate to the Wind" by Guaraldi's trio.

While searching for music to accompany a planned Peanuts television documentary, Lee Mendelson (the producer of the special) heard "Cast Your Fate to the Wind" on the radio. Mendelson contacted Ralph J. Gleason, jazz columnist for the San Francisco Chronicle, and was put in touch with Guaraldi. He proposed that Guaraldi score the upcoming Peanuts Christmas special, and Guaraldi enthusiastically took the job, performing a version of what became "Linus and Lucy" over the phone two weeks later. The soundtrack was recorded by the Vince Guaraldi Trio, with drummer Jerry Granelli and bassist Fred Marshall. Guaraldi went on to compose scores for seventeen Peanuts television specials, as well as the 1969 feature film A Boy Named Charlie Brown and the unaired television program of the same name. (source: Wikipedia)

FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



Origami flower

"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 4 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 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 during the service.