

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

Sunday, December 24, 2017 – 7:30 PM Service

A Thought as the Service Begins:

Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world.
All things break. And all things can be mended.
Not with time, as they say, but with intention.
So love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally.
The broken world waits for the light... (L.R. Knost)

(Trudy Burham will light the advent wreath tonight. We ask that you turn off the ringer on your electronic devices as well as the flash on your cameras. Please join us in quiet during the prelude.)

Prelude How Beautiful is the Morning Star (Johann Pachelbel)

Call to Worship In the Bleak Midwinter (Rosetti, Storey,
Holst; arr. McCann) Adult Choir

Welcome Ed McNierney, 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

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

Reading from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke
read by Anya Harter and Jon Frey

Anthem Ubi Caritas (Ola Gjeilo) 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 Blessed are you who bear the light by Jan Richardson
read by Trevor Frey

Prayer *Congregational Response:*
Wherever the world is in darkness, let us bring light.

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

The offering is for the Caring Committee's ministry to provide gas and grocery cards and emergency support within the congregation and to those who come in need. If you are in need of a gas or grocery card, please see the minister after the service.

Reflections Love Intentionally, Extravagantly Rev. Elea Kemler

Anthem Sure On This Shining Night (Morten Lauridsen) 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

Postlude O Holy Night (Adolphe Adam)

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

Greeters: Suzanne Nelson, Bernadette Dureault, Steve Lieman, June Johnson

Ushers: Fred & Claudette Williams, Carol Swift

Fire Safety: Jim, Trevor, Will and Jon Frey

FIRST PARISH CHURCH Groton, Massachusetts



Artwork by Michael Brunelle, 3rd grade

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

Please visit our website: www.uugroton.org and our Facebook Page at First Parish Church of Groton, MA

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.