

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

December 16, 2018

Ringing of the Bell Emma Rose Marella, Bell-Ringer

Thought as the Service Begins

You can prepare,
but still it will come to you
by surprise,
crossing through your doorway,
calling your name in greeting...
It will astonish you
how wide your heart will open
in welcome
for the joy that finds you
so ready
and still so
unprepared. (Jan Richardson, For Joy)

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 Sonate O, 7, Molto Allegro e con brio (Beethoven)

Call to Worship Love, Be Our Way (Carolyn McDade) Adult Choir

Welcome and Announcements Cyndy Premru, Worship Leader

***Hymn** People, Look East #226

Chalice Lighting Steve Bozcenowski

Advent Wreath Lighting

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and with your captive children dwell.
Give comfort to all exiles here, and to the aching heart bid cheer.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Love to dwell.

O come, you splendor very bright, as joy that never yields to might.
O come and turn all hearts to peace,
that greed and war at last shall cease.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Truth to dwell.

O come, you Dayspring come and cheer,
our spirits by your presence here.
And dawn in every broken soul, as vision that can see the whole.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Light to dwell.

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

The Dedication of Jada Alice Emmons, child of Stephanie and Matthew Emmons and grandchild of Debra and Steve Boczenowski

Singing the Children, Youth 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

Anthem Early Will I Seek Thee (Thomas Weelkes) Adult Choir

Candle of Celebration and Concern

You are invited to come forward, introduce yourself, share a personal and heartfelt joy or sorrow in a sentence or two, light your candle from the chalice and place it on the candle table. Please gather your thoughts into one or two sentences before speaking.

Offertory Sonate (pathetique) Op. 13, Adagio cantabile (Beethoven)

Reading Witnessing the Miracle by Andrea Mason

Spoken Prayer and Silent Meditation

Sermon The Joy that Finds Us So Ready and So Unprepared
Rev. Elea Kemler

*Hymn Once in Royal David’s City #228

*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 Sonate Op. 7, Allegro (Ludwig van Beethoven)

(You are invited to come light a candle silently during the Postlude. We ask the congregation to remain seated in quiet witness until the last candle is lit. If you are not able to stay, we understand and please leave as quietly as you are able.)

***Please stand as you are able**

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

Today’s flowers are given by Deb & Steve Boczenowski in celebration of their precious granddaughter, Jada.

Greeters: Cassandra Fontaine, Casey Bridge, Tom Roney
Ushers: Pat Fairchild, Ellen Allen
Coffee Hour Hosts: Isabel Conners, Jai Luc Santoro, Sarah Stram

WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS. We are so glad you are here. Join us for coffee, tea and conversation after the service in the Vestry, the large room beneath us, where you can meet our minister Rev. Elea Kemler, our Director of Religious Education, Liz Davis-Chaffin and visit the Welcome Table to learn more about us. Look for anyone holding a blue mug at coffee hour. They will be happy to answer any questions you have or speak with you about our community.

First Parish Church is a Welcoming Congregation. We joyfully welcome all into this community.

FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



*Be joyful. Seek the joy of being alive.
(ET Seaton)*

A Warm Welcome to All!

There is childcare for infants and toddlers through age three 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 soft 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.

“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