

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

December 23, 2018

Ringing of the Bell Emma Marella

Thought as the Service Begins:

This is the irrational season
when love blooms bright and wild.
Had Mary been filled with reason,
there'd have been no room for the child. (Madeleine L'Engle)

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 Gloria [Westron Wynde]
John Taverner, arr. by Margery Goldstein

Welcome and Announcements Kaitlin Kramer, Worship Leader

***Hymn** Little Drummer Boy (insert)

Lighting of the Chalice Kevin Pammett

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

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.

O come, you Wisdom from on high,
from depths that hide within a sigh,
to temper knowledge with our care, to render every act a prayer.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Hope 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.

Offertory Gesu Bambino (The Infant Jesus)
Petro A. Yon, arr. by John Gibson

Today's offering is for the Caring Committee's ministry of providing gas and grocery cards to church families and people who come to our doors in need. The need for gas and grocery cards has risen sharply this year so thank you in advance for your generosity. If you are in need of a gas or grocery card today, please speak to the minister after the service.

Hymn Do You Hear What I Hear? (insert)

The Story of the Nativity, according to the Gospels of Matthew and Luke (also known as The Paper Bag Pageant!)

Narrators: Gina Perini Benedict, Kaitlin Kramer and Rev. Elea Kemler

***Hymn** O Little Town of Bethlehem #247

***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 Carol of the Bells, Leontovych, arr. by Brett Thompson
Ding Dong Merrily on High, arr. by Kate Agioritis

(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, especially today! Please leave as quietly as you are able.)

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

Large Print Hymnals, Bulletins and Assisted Listening Devices are available at the sanctuary doors. Join us downstairs for good food and conversation immediately following the service!

Greeters: Loretto & Tom Roney, Eric Elbot

Ushers: Suzanne Nelson, Ellen Allen

Todays flowers are given by Tom and Loretto Roney in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary!! Congratulations!!

Coffee Hosts: Isabel Conners, Jai Luc Santoro, Sarah Stram

A warm welcome and thank you to this morning's musicians:

Flute: Paul Funch Alto Flute, Flute: Mike Jacobs

Flute, Piccolo: Margery Goldstein and Claire Rindenello

Harp: Maria Rindenello-Spraker

The lantern hanging from the pulpit at the front of the church carries a flame that originated at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. It was brought to Austria where it was greeted and distributed to 1000 Boy Scouts from 20 countries. It arrived in the United States on Dec. 1 and since then has been transported by Scouts to thousands of homes, churches, hospitals, retirement homes and other organizations. As it burns here, it also flickers in cities and towns around the world carrying the message of hope for Peace on Earth. Thank you to Sam Kimpton for bringing us this light today.

Christmas Eve Services at First Parish Church

5:15 PM Candlelight Service For All ages, child friendly!

6:15 PM Caroling in the Vestry

7:00 PM Candlelight Service

Both services include the passing of candlelight while we sing Silent Night. There will be cider and cookies after both services.

All are welcome, including children, next Sunday morning, Dec. 30 at 10 AM for our annual Shelter Lunch Making Service when we will make over 200 lunches for residents of five area shelters.

FIRST PARISH CHURCH Groton, Massachusetts



Artwork by Lindy Hanninen

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 if anyone needs to take a break during the service.

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