

**FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON**

January 6, 2019

**Ringing of the Bell** Emma Rose Marella, Bell-Ringer

**A Thought as the Service Begins**

Do not try to save the whole world  
or do anything grandiose.  
Instead, create a clearing  
in the dense forest of your life  
and wait there, patiently,  
until the song that is your life  
falls into your own cupped hands  
and you recognize and greet it.  
Only then will you know  
how to give yourself to this world  
so worthy of rescue. (Martha Postlewaite)

*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.*

*Today we have both spoken and written candles. If you would like to have your joy or sorrow shared but prefer not to light a spoken candle, write it on a bright pink card (in your pew rack) and put it in the basket on the candle table or in the offering box during the offertory. The minister will include it in the prayer.*

**Prelude** Voluntary in A minor (William Boyce)

**Call to Worship** We Want Harmony (John Maas) Open Choir

**Welcome and Announcements** Donna Stram, Worship Leader

**\*Hymn** May Nothing Evil Cross This Door #1

**Chalice Lighting** Helen Stubbs

**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 the Child in Us All**

**Anthem** Keepers of the Earth (Joyce Poley) Open Choir

**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

**Candles of Celebration and Concern**

*You are invited to come forward, introduce yourself, briefly share a personal and heartfelt joy or sorrow, 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.*

**Offertory** Worter (Gibb)

**Sung Prayer** There Is A Love (Parker, Norton)

There is a love holding me / us.  
There is a love holding all that I / we love.  
There is a love holding all.  
I / We rest in this love.

**Spoken Prayer and Silent Meditation**

**Sermon** How to Give Yourself to This World Rev. Elea Kemler

**\*Hymn** One More Step #168

**\*Sung Benediction** Carry the Flame (Patricia Pavey)  
Carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again.  
Oh, carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again.

**Postlude** How Can I Keep From Singing (traditional, arr. Clif Hardin)  
*(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.*

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The poinsettias are from Jason and Amy Grosso. Please take one  
home on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas.

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Greeters: Cyndy, Greg, Will and Leo Premru

Ushers: Sal Lombardi, Claudette Williams

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**



*Tori's beautiful card, which was packed with a lunch last Sunday.  
We made and packed 220 lunches, each with a card.  
Lunches were delivered to area shelters.*

**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](http://www.uugroton.org) and  
our Facebook page at First Parish Church of Groton, MA*