

**FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON**

February 10, 2019

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

**Thoughts as the Service Begins**

Every piece of ourselves,  
every part of this earth,  
this life, this new day reminds us  
how we are all still learning  
still studying  
with more or less seriousness  
the beauty and hope of this life  
still refusing to concede the right  
to practice joy in the face of loss  
laughter in the midst of grief  
surrender even while we are afraid,  
kindness as a choice we make.

It is a tender teaching we are after -  
an opening of the human heart  
that we might love more of this world,  
and then still more.

*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:** Improvisations on African American Spirituals

**Call to Worship:** Sing and Rejoice (traditional) Children's Choir

**Welcome and Announcements** Kaitlin Kramer, Worship Leader

**\*Hymn** Building a New Way #1017, turquoise

**Chalice Lighting**

Owen Shuman

**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:** Take Up The Song (Etzler, Chambers) Children's 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** Meditation (Duke Ellington)

**Sung Prayer** Walking Each Other Home (Munger, Threshold Choir)

*We are all just walking each other home. (repeat x3)*

**Spoken Prayer and Silent Meditation**

**Sermon** The Kindness Which Sustains This Beautiful, Aching World  
Rev. Elea Kemler

**\*Hymn** Let the Life I Lead (Sullivan Pugh, adapted)

Let the life I lead speak for me  
Let the life I lead speak for me  
When I've come to the end of the road  
And I've lay down my heavy load  
Let the life I lead speak for me

1. Let the friends I have...
2. Let the work I do...
3. Let the songs I sing...
4. Let the love I share...

**\*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** Improvisations on African American Spirituals

*(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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Greeters: Karen Roduta, Eric Elbot, John Appleton

Ushers: Bernadette Sal Lombardi, 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 Groton, Massachusetts



### 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