

**FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON**

February 24, 2019

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

**Thoughts as the Service Begins**

What does God require of you? To do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly... (from the book of Micah)

We know mercy is always our salvation — as we age, as our grandchildren go down the same dark streets that called to their parents, as the ice caps melt... I wish it was something else. I wish it was being able to figure things out, at which I am very good, or to assign blame, at which I am better, or to convince people of the rightness of my ideas. I wish it was a political savior who believes the same things I believe, who possesses the force of great moral strength that (of course) agrees with my own deepest values. But no, our hope of renewal and restoration is found in the merciful fibrillating heart of the world. (Anne Lamott)

*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** Pastoral Dance on Morning has Broken (Andrew Clarke)

**Welcome and Announcements** Cyndy Premru, Worship Leader

**\*Hymn** For All That Is Our Life #128

**Chalice Lighting** Karen Amis

**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** Jerome By Heart (words by Thomas Scotto, illustrations by Olivier Tallec)

**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** Simple Gifts (Russell Schulz-Widmar)

**Sung Prayer** When the World is Sick (If Not Now)

When the world is sick,  
can't no one be well,  
but I dreamt we was all beautiful and strong.

**Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation**

Sermon The Merciful, Fibrillating Heart of the World  
Rev. Elea Kemler

\*Hymn We Would Be One #318

\*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 Hornpipe (John S. Dixon)

*(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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Today's flowers are given by Greg and Cyndy Premru in memory  
of their fathers, Brian Premru and Ron Davidson.

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Greeters: Eric Elbot, Loraine Scampini, John Appleton

Ushers: Jacquelyn Frey, Dawn Sajdyk

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 Stand 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 of Groton is a Welcoming Community.  
We joyfully and intentionally welcome all!*

## FIRST PARISH CHURCH Groton, Massachusetts



Artwork, Small Group Ministry

### **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