FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

June 16, 2019

Ringing of the Bell Emma Rose Marella, Bell-Ringer

Thoughts as the Service Begins:

All praise be yours through Brother Wolf,
All praise be yours through Sister Whale
by Nature's song may Life be praised
by Brother Eagle, Sister Loon, through Brother Tiger, Sister Seal
through Sister Flower, Brother Tree
Let creatures all give thanks to thee,

All praise to those who live in peace.

Ask the Beasts and they shall teach you the beauty of the Earth.
Ask of the Trees and they shall teach you the beauty of the Earth.
Ask of the Beasts and they shall teach you the beauty of the Earth.
Ask of the Flowers and they shall teach you the beauty of the Earth.

("from Canticle of Brother Sun" words adapted by Paul Winter from St. Francis and the book of Job.)

Prelude Count On You (Bruno Mars) Jon Frey

Welcome and Announcements Melissa Wood, Worship Leader

*Hymn Morning Has Broken

Morning has broken like the first morning Blackbird has spoken like the first bird Praise for the singing Praise for the morning Praise for them springing fresh from the word.

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven Like the first dewfall on the first grass Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden Sprung in completeness where God's feet pass

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning Born of the one light Eden saw play Praise with elation, praise every morning God's recreation of the new day.

Morning has broken like the first morning Blackbird has spoken like the first bird

Praise for the singing
Praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the word

Chalice Lighting

Barbara Rich

Response Hymn

(please remain seated)

#123

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 All Generations and Species

Anthem You've Got A Friend In Me (Randy Newman) Jon Frey

Responsive Reading by Mary de la Valette, much adapted

Blessed are the animals, for they shall lead us back to our lost innocence.

Blessed are the great whales, for their vast intelligence is peaceful.

Blessed are the elephants, for they are pure of heart.

Blessed indeed are the elephants, for they are pure of heart and their love is deep and long.

Blessed is the wolf, who was there at the dawn of Creation.

Blessed is the eagle, full of dignity and power.

Blessed are the antelope, for their grace and fleeting quickness, Blessed indeed are the antelope, who tremble when danger comes.

Blessed are the cows, for they are the ancient symbol of peace.

Blessed are the mice, who seek shelter from the cold.

Blessed are the rabbits, for their playfulness and their joy.

Blessed indeed are the rabbits, who hurt nothing and are the fecundity of the earth.

Blessed are the bees, for they make the Earth fruitful and green and sticky with honey.

Blessed are our cousins the Great Apes. May they forgive us for refusing to treat them as kin.

Blessed are the great cats, the lion and the leopard, for surely their perfection has no equal.

Blessed indeed are all the cats; their perfection teaches us humility and awe.

ALL: Blessed are all wild, free things, for they live in harmony with the Earth. Blessed are the animals with whom we share our homes, for they tie us to the rest of Creation. Blessed is humankind, who has gone so far astray. May we listen to earth's other voices and learn to become true shepherds to the flock and caretakers of this earth, our home. And blessed is the Creation in all its beauty, for the Spirit of Holiness dwells in every living thing.

Offertory The Girl With the Flaxen Hair (Claude Debussy)

Blessing of the Animals

- 1. Stuffed animals
- 2. Any small animals with fur, scales or fins
- 3. Cats
- 4. Smallish dogs
- 5. Medium and large dogs
- 6. Barnyard animals
- 7. Animals we remember in spirit and beloved memory

*Hymn Swimming to the Other Side (Emma's Revolution: Pat Humphries, Sandy O) Insert

*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 Sonatina - Allegro (Muzio Clementi)

(Please remain seated in quiet, or as quiet as we get today(!) during the Postlude.)

*Please stand as you are able.

Join us for good food and conversation immediately following the service.

Greeters: Meredith Hill, Lena Donovan Ushers: Suzanne Nelson, Peg Lorenz

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

FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, MA



Artwork by Kathryn Ellis Moore

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: <u>www.uugroton.org</u> and our Facebook page at First Parish Church of Groton, MA