

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

September 8, 2019

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

## A Thought as the Service Begins

This is a call for all the people  
longing for liberation  
all who wander too often  
the desert, not sure of the way forward  
too often thirsty and afraid  
looking for water.

This is a call for the diving in  
with all the dreams of your heart  
the struggles, the joy, the fear, the thirst  
the courage, the community, the love.

Here we remember the time for joy  
is always now.

Here, at this deep well, may we be filled  
so that we can pour ourselves  
out into the world. (G. Haley, G. Pelley, adapted Elea Kemler)

*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** Variations from Organ Concerto Set 1, Opus 4, #1 (Handel)

**Call to Worship** Love, Be Our Way (Carolyn McDade) Open Choir

**Welcome and Announcements** Ed McNierney, Worship Leader

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

**All children and youth are asked to help return the chalice!**  
**Please gather in the center aisle during the hymn.**

## Chalice Lighting

*Leader:* We learn from the sea how to hold this light.  
**Congregation: Gently, lightly, we hold this light.**  
*Leader:* This light says, "Love exists in as many ways as there are angles of the sun on the ocean."

**Congregation: Gently, lightly, we hold this light.**

*Leader:* This light says, "Love exists in as many ways as there are beating hearts in this room."

**Congregation: Gently, lightly, we hold this light.**

*Leader:* This room is filled with light.

**Congregation: Gently, lightly, we hold this light.**

*Leader:* Our chalice holds our light. It is warmth and brightness.

**Congregation: Gently, lightly, we hold this light.**

**ALL: May the light of love shine strongly here. May we bring this love into the world.**

**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

**Anthem** The Water Remembers (Jason Shelton) Open Choir

## A Time for All Generations

**Offertory** Improvisation on 'Shall We Gather By The River"  
(traditional) Shawn McCann

## Gathering the Water

*(All are invited to come forward and pour water into the common bowl, along with a word about your water or your spirit.)*

Music: Holy Waters (Jason Shelton)

Holy waters make us new; holy waters make us whole

Holy waters make us free; holy waters make us one

Improvisation – Sue Beers, Rav Vast steel tongue drum

## Blessing the Water

\*Hymn            Blue Boat Home                                #1064, turquoise

\*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            Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing  
(traditional, arr. Clif Hardin)

*(All are invited to light a silent candle during the Postlude. We ask the congregation to remain seated until the last candle. If you can't stay, we understand, just 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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Many thanks to Lindy Hanninen, Donna Nowak and Carol Sarasin for today's sanctuary decorations and art.

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Greeters: Julie Andrews, John Appleton, Eric Elbot

Ushers: Ellen Allen, Donna Nowak

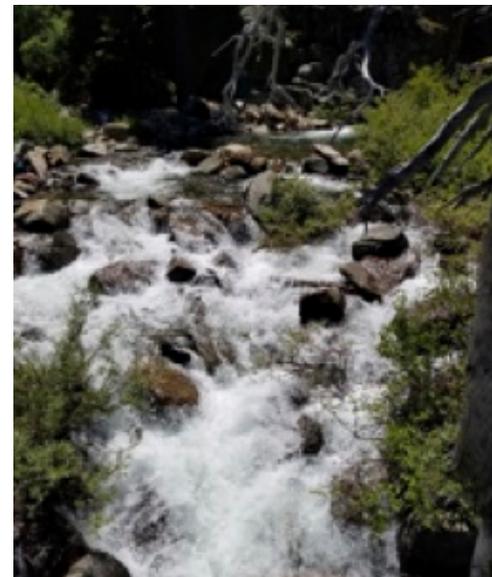
Coffee Hour Hosts: Jai Luc Santoro, Sarah Stram

**A WARM WELCOME TO ALL, ESPECIALLY VISITORS.** We are so glad you are here. All are invited for coffee, tea and conversation after the service in the Vestry, the large room beneath us, where you can meet the Minister, Rev. Elea Kemler and Director of Religious Education, Liz Davis-Chaffin. **Please visit the much quieter welcoming space called The Wading Pool in the East Wing (through the double doors by the coffee) to meet members of the Welcoming All Group.** If you sign one of the Guest Books on the tables near the front and back entrances, we will send you the print newsletter and weekly emails about life at First Parish. Finally look for anyone holding a blue mug at coffee hour. They will be happy to answer any questions you have.

*First Parish Church is a Welcoming Congregation.  
We joyfully welcome all!*

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH

## Groton, Massachusetts



Lake Tahoe, California

### 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 several places 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*