

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

December 2, 2018

Ringing of the Bell

Emma Rose Marella, Bell-Ringer

A Thought as the Service Begins

With every step you take, this blessing rises up to meet you.
It has been waiting long ages for you.
Look close and you can see the layers of it,
how it has been fashioned by those who walked
this road before you,
how it has been created of nothing
but their determination and their dreaming,
how it has taken its form from an ancient hope
that drew them forward and made a way for them
when no way could be seen.
Look closer and you will see this blessing is not finished.
You are part of the path it is preparing,
You are how this blessing means to be a voice within the wilderness
and a welcome for the way. (Jan Richardson)

*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

Fugue in C Minor (Jean Jacques Charpentier)

Call to Worship

Open My Heart (Henry S. Flurry)

Open Choir

Welcome and Announcements

Donna Nowak, Worship Leader

Whoever you are, whatever country you come from,
whoever you love, whatever your abilities, challenges or gifts,
wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

***Hymn**

Swimming to the Other Side

insert

Chalice Lighting

Eric Elbot

Advent Wreath Lighting

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and with your captive children dwell.
Give comfort to all exiles here, and to the aching heart bid cheer.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Love to dwell.

Menorah Lighting

Steve Lieman

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.
Arrágame, 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

The Welcome and Celebration of New Members Amy Grosso,
Trustees and the Welcoming All Group

Song: Enter, Rejoice and Come In

#361

Anthem

Light One Candle (Peter Yarrow; arr. Shawn McCann)
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

Candle of Celebration and Concern

*You are invited to come forward, introduce yourself, share a personal
and heartfelt joy or sorrow in a sentence or two, light your candle
from the chalice and place it on the candle table. Please gather your
thoughts into one or two sentences before speaking.*

Offertory Recit de Nazard (Jean Jacques Charpentier)

Spoken Prayer and Silent Meditation

Sermon Blessing the Way Rev. Elea Kemler

***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 Fugue III (Johann Christoph Kellner)

(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.

The flowers today are by Jane Fry in celebration
of her youngest and favorite, Susan.

Greeters: Julie Andrews, Victoria & Val Preslavska, Tom Roney
Ushers: Kathleen Callahan, Melissa Wood
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



image by Jan Richardson, A Road Runs Through It

“Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.” Desmond Tutu

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 and our Facebook page at First Parish Church of Groton, MA

New Member Sunday: Welcome!

Josh Berson lives in Templeton with thirteen chickens, four goats, four cats, and five humans. After moving around a lot as a young kid, his family eventually settled on Martha's Vineyard. Following several years of work as a 911 call taker, Josh now works as a customer service representative for Fallon Health in Worcester. For fun, Josh enjoys playing Magic: the Gathering, Dungeons and Dragons, and video games with his friends and family.

Victoria Preslavska lives in Shirley with her daughter Valerie, who is active in youth RE. Victoria grew-up and married in Bulgaria, and for the last 30 years has been living in the United States. She is a clinical social worker, and advises pre-adoptive and foster families through the fostering and adoption process. Victoria likes reading, traveling, cooking from scratch, fine dining, wine tasting, socializing with friends, and visiting the theater and Metropolitan opera house.

Loraine Scampini moved to Groton in 2005 with her husband and three daughters with the hope of moving their horses home. After retiring the last two horses and closing the barn this past fall, she and her husband are working together to figure out what this thing called retirement might be. She now spends her time with her daughters (all married now), helping with her grandchildren, and deeply engaged in her own spiritual journey through western Buddhism and connection with others.

Echo Summer-Berson (they/them) lives in Templeton on a small hobby farm with their chosen family, four cats, and a small menagerie of farm animals. Before moving to MA, Echo lived in Mystic, CT; New Rochelle, NY; and Dingle, County Kerry, Ireland. These days, they teach religious education online to adult pagans, run a small Grove for druids in Central MA, and manage the social media presence of several organizations, including First Parish Church of Groton. During their down time, Echo enjoys playing both video and tabletop games, reading non-fiction, and marathoning documentaries about whatever their interest is of the day.