

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

Monday, December 24, 2018 – 7:00 PM Service

Ringing of the Church Bells Emma Marella, Bell Ringer

A Thought as the Service Begins:

We are here to gather in the deep, dark night,
and sing with the circling constellations
as we celebrate, again,
that ancient winter festival of Hope.
May the lights we kindle here together
be a sign to us of the brightness
of the story we tell tonight:
the story of the birth of a child
whose life changed the world.
May the lights we kindle here together,
which burn like stars in the darkness,
be a sign to us that tomorrow's peace on earth
can begin today,
when we act with compassion toward all people.

Blessed is this silent night, alive with wisdom.
Blessed is this silent night, which gives birth to light.
And blessed are you, Love: our Star, our Joy,
our Journey, our Beginning, and our End.

(Mark Belletini)

*Natalie Guilmette and Natalie Sturm will light the candles on the
advent wreath tonight*

*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 In Dulci Jubilo (J.S. Bach)

Call to Worship For So the Children Come (Fahs, Shelton)
Children and Youth Choirs

Welcome Ed McNierney, Worship Leader

***Carol** O Come All Ye Faithful (insert)

Lighting of the Chalice Hannah Tellier

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

Reading from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke
read by Eric Elbot

***Carol** Angels We Have Heard on High (insert)

Reading Mending Blessing by Jan Richardson
read by Pamela Worden

Anthem Gloria from b minor mass (J.S. Bach) Adult Choir

Prayer Marisa Benson and Rev. Elea Kemler

Congregational Response:

Wherever the world is in darkness, let us bring light.

Offertory Of the Father's Love Begotten (arr. David Lasky)

*The offering is for the Caring Committee's ministry of giving gas and
grocery cards to all who need them, inside and outside of the church.*

*The need for gas and grocery cards has risen sharply this year so
thank you in advance for your generosity. If you are in need of cards
tonight, please speak to the minister after the service.*

***Carol** In the Bleak Mid Winter (insert)

Reflections The Beautiful, Aching Work of Repair
Rev. Elea Kemler

Candle Lighting Ceremony

***Carol** Silent Night (insert)

*Carol Joy to the World! (insert)

Benediction

Postlude O Holy Night (Adolphe Adam)

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***Please stand as you are able.**

Large print hymnals, large print bulletins and assisted listening devices are available from the ushers.

Tonight's flowers are given by the Grosso family in celebration of this Holiday Season. May each of us be filled with Hope, Love, Joy and Peace!

Special Thanks to those who helped with tonight's service:

Music: Shawn McCann, Director of Music Ministries
The Choirs, and Ed Strachan on trumpet

Greeters: Diane Lombardi, Sal Lombardi and John Appleton

Ushers: Ellen Allen, Deb Boczenowski, Bernadette Dureault,
Suzanne Nelson

Candlelight Bearers: Sophie Clark, Sadie Foster, Meredith Hill,
Martina Smyth

Fire Safety: Jim Frey, Trevor Frey, Will Frey and Jon Frey

WELCOME AND MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL! Please stay for cookies and cider in the large room beneath us immediately following the service.

If you are visiting tonight for the first time, we are so glad you are here. Please sign the guest book by the front door so we can send you the monthly print newsletter and weekly emails about life at First Parish and all that we do here.

All are welcome on Sunday, December 30, 10 AM for the Annual Lunch Making Service when we will make over 200 bag lunches and deliver them to five area shelters. A great way to start the new year!

Website: www.uugroton.org

Facebook: First Parish Church of Groton, MA

FIRST PARISH CHURCH Groton, Massachusetts



Artwork by Shirley Man

A Warm Welcome to All!

Tonight's service is for all ages. There are quiet toys in the fabric pouches and picture books in each pew. The service is also broadcast several places downstairs if children or adults need 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."