

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

September 22, 2019

Ringing of the Bell Emma Rose Marella, Bell-Ringer

A Thought as the Service Begins

There is a light that is holy
That calls us, and holds us
Changes us, and connects us
There is a thread that runs between us
Across time and space.
There is a pulse that beats
Through it all, when we tend to it
The sound of our hearts, steady and stubborn
our eyes, that keep noticing
The sky, and this long march of history
This path that we make together
This day, which begins and beckons
With hope. (Gretchen Haley, adapted)

We ask that you put your electronic devices in "worship mode" by turning off all ringers. Join us in a time of quiet during the prelude.

Today we have both written and spoken Candles of Celebration and Concern. If you would like a personal joy or sorrow spoken out loud in the prayer, please write it on a pink candle card (in your pew rack). An usher will collect cards while the children are being sung from the Sanctuary. There is also a basket on the candle table; you can put your card there any time before the prayer.

Prelude Toccata in e minor (Johann Pachelbel)

Call to Worship Call to Worship (Betty Wylder) Adult Choir

Welcome and Announcements Sal Lombardi, Worship Leader

***Hymn** Come, Come, Whoever You Are #188

Come, come, whoever you are,
wanderer, worshiper, lover of leaving.
Ours is no caravan of despair.
Come, yet again come.

(Though you've broken your vows a thousand times.)

Chalice Lighting Loraine Scampini and Cyndy Premru

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 All Generations

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.

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

Anthem I Will Sing With the Spirit (John Rutter) Adult Choir

Reading The Way It Is by William Stafford

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Offertory Fantasia (Johann Pachelbel)

Sermon The Thread That Runs Between Us Rev. Elea Kemler

FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



“Cairns” Photo by Cyndy Premru

Litany (adapted from Rabbi Margie Klein Ronkin)

Leader: Will you believe that all of humanity is one? Will you learn to see yourself in another? In all others?

People: Your people will be my people. Where you go, I will go.

Leader: Will you be faithful to the call of love, which tells us that my well being is tied to your well being?

People: My joy is made less by your pain. My struggles are made lighter by your care.

Leader: Will you be brave in using your voice, especially in the face of hatred or injustice, and when others are silent?

People: Your work is my work. We will grow brave together.

Leader: Your world is my world. Let us join hands, hearts and minds to repair it.

People: Your world is my world. We will join hands, hearts, and minds to repair it.

***Hymn** Where You Go (Shoshana Jedwab)

Where you go, I will go, Beloved/Refugee/Children/Ancestors

Where you go, I will go (Repeat)

And where you lie, I will lie, Beloved/Refugee/Children/Ancestors

Where you lie, I will lie (Repeat)

And your people are my people. Your people are mine

Your people are my people.

Your Divine my Divine (Repeat)

***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 Toccata in C major (Johann Pachelbel)

(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.

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