

FIRST PARISH CHURCH of GROTON

December 8, 2019

Ringing of the Bell

Emma Rose Marella, Bell-Ringer

A Thought as the Service Begins

Let's "Start close in" as the poet David Whyte says.

Let's not take the second step or the third,

start with the first thing, close in...

Close in is risky and real

and where we have any chance of seeing each other

seeing ourselves

seeing this life as it actually is

undone and imperfect

alive and filled with grace.

This is where peace begins:

in this breath, this silence, this singing.

Come let us worship together. (Gretchen Haley, adapted EJK)

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 written Candles of Celebration and Concern. If you would like a personal joy or sorrow spoken out loud in the prayer today, 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

Voluntary in A minor (William Boyce)

Call to Worship

Morning Has Come (traditional) Children's Choir

Welcome and Announcements

Becky Pine, Worship Leader

***Hymn**

Morning Has Come

#1000, turquoise

Chalice Lighting

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

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.

O come you Splendor very bright, as joy that never yields to might.

O come and turn all hearts to peace,

that greed and war at last shall cease

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Truth to dwell.

A Time for All Generations

Anthem We Shall Not Be Moved (traditional, arr. Michael Holmes)

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

Reflections on the Peace Candle

Eric Elbot

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Offertory

Recit de Nazard (Jean Jacques Charpentier)

Sermon Undone and Imperfect, Alive and Filled with Grace
Rev. Elea Kemler

***Hymn** One More Step #168

***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)

(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.

Thank you to Donna Nowak and Carol Swift for creating beauty in the sanctuary for this season.

Greeters: Ann Carpenter, Bob Kniffin and Dawn Sajdyk

Ushers: Kathleen Callahan and Pamela Worden

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 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 monthly 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 of Groton is a Welcoming Congregation.
We joyfully welcome members of the GLBTQ community and all!*

FIRST PARISH CHURCH Groton, Massachusetts



Artwork by Michael Brunell

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