

**FIRST PARISH CHURCH of GROTON**

**December 15, 2019**

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

**Thoughts as the Service Begins**

Be joyful though you have considered all the facts. (Wendell Berry)

Advent is a season for remembering that the joy that makes its way toward us does not depend on mere happiness. Joy is made of stronger stuff than this. Joy is what comes when, in days that tempt us toward despair, we choose to celebrate—not in denial of the causes of despair, but in defiance. In hope. In delight. In gladness...

(Jan Richardson)

**Prelude** Prelude & Fugue in C minor (J.S. Bach)

**Call to Worship** Now Let Us Sing (traditional) Open Choir

**Welcome and Announcements** Melissa Wood, Worship Leader

**\*Hymn** People, Look East #226

**Chalice Lighting** Zoe Alberga

**Just Like Yesterday by Tyler Joseph**

On the eve of a day that's forgotten and fake  
As the trees, they await  
And the clouds anticipate  
The start of a day when we put on our face  
A mask that portrays that we don't need grace  
And the meaning and weight of the day is lost without a trace  
On the eve of a day that is bigger than us  
but we open our eyes only because we're told that we must  
And the trees wave their arms and the clouds try to plead  
Desperately yelling out to something else in this that we need  
It happens to be free  
I won't be afraid  
We can't live this way just to write a song to play  
Just to stay alive, just enough to breath away  
Another day, another face and I will lose another race  
Save me now cause tomorrow's gone  
Just like yesterday

**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.

O come you Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by your presence here.  
And dawn in every broken soul, as vision that can see the whole.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Light to dwell.

**Sabbatical Blessing for Shawn McCann, Director of Music Ministries**

**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

## 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.*

**Anthem** In the Bleak Midwinter (Rosetti, Storey, Holst; arr. McCann)  
Open Choir

## Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

**Offertory** Intermezzo Op. 76 No. 7, Moderato Semplice (Brahms)

**Message** In Defiance, In Hope, In Delight, In Gladness  
Rev. Elea Kemler

**\*Hymn** Life Calls Us On (insert)

**\*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** Sonata Op. 7, Allegro (Ludwig van Beethoven)

*(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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Thank you to Donna Nowak and Carol Swift for the sanctuary decorations, and to all who shared their holiday dreams.

Take a walk around the sanctuary and read each windowsill!

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Greeters: Diane and Sal Lombardi

Ushers: Krys Salon, Julie Andrews

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.

## FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



Artwork by Hatzy Hornblower

### **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](http://www.uugroton.org)  
and our Facebook page at First Parish Church of Groton, MA