

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

December 22, 2019

Ringing of the Bell

Emma Marella

Thought as the Service Begins:

You can prepare, but still it will come to you by surprise,
crossing through your doorway, calling your name in greeting...
It will astonish you how wide your heart will open in welcome
for the joy that finds you so ready and still
so unprepared. (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

Christmas Tree Suite (Franz Liszt)

An Old Christmas Carol (Psalitte), Old Provencal Christmas Carol

Welcome and Announcements

Cyndry Premru, Worship Leader

***Hymn**

Little Drummer Boy

(insert)

Lighting of the Chalice and the Menorah

Alyssa Dallas

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.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Samantha Taylor

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.

O come, you Wisdom from on high,
from depths that hide within a sigh,
to temper knowledge with our care, to render every act a prayer.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Hope to dwell.

Offertory

Skating (from A Charlie Brown Christmas)
Vince Guaraldi, arr. John Gibson

*Today's offering is for the Sunday Breakfast Program for those who
are homeless or hungry in the city of Fitchburg and for food for our
Lunch Making Service on Dec. 29 when we prepare over 200 bag
lunches for shelters in Lowell, Fitchburg and Worcester. Thank you!*

Hymn

Do You Hear What I Hear?

(insert)

**The Story of the Nativity, according to the Gospels of Matthew and
Luke (also known as The Paper Bag Pageant!)**

Narrators: Gina Perini Benedict, Cyndy Premru and Rev. Elea Kemler

***Hymn**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

#247

***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

Ring! Glad Christmas Bells (Betsy Lee Bailey)

*(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,
especially today! Please leave as quietly as you are able.)*

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

Large Print Hymnals, Bulletins and Assisted Listening Devices are available at the sanctuary doors. Join us downstairs for good food and conversation immediately following the service!

Today's flowers are from Loretto and Tom Roney in celebration of their 51st wedding anniversary. Congratulations!

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.

Greeters: Molly Foster, Ursula Flury, Melissa Wood, Krys Salon

Ushers: Clio Fisher, Becky Barth, Dawn Sajdyk

Pageant Helpers: Pamela Worden, Pat Fairchild, Meg Marshall, Ellen Allen

Coffee Hosts: Jai Luc Santoro, Sarah Stram

A warm welcome and thank you to this morning's musicians:

Paul Funch, flute; Margery Goldstein, flute; Michael Jacobs, flute, alto flute; Claire Rindenello, flute; Stuart Schulman, glockenspiel

The candle hanging from the high pulpit carries a flame that originated at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. It was transported to Austria, where it was greeted and distributed to 1000 Scouts from 20 countries. It arrived in New York on December 6, 2019 and, since then, has been transported by members of Scouting units to homes, churches, hospitals and other organizations throughout North, Central and South America. Today as it burns in Groton, it also burns in thousands of cities and towns around the world carrying the message and hope for Peace on Earth. Thank you to Sam Kimpton for bringing us this light today.

Christmas Eve Services at First Parish Church

5:30 PM Candlelight Service for All ages, child friendly!

7-7:45 PM Caroling in the Vestry

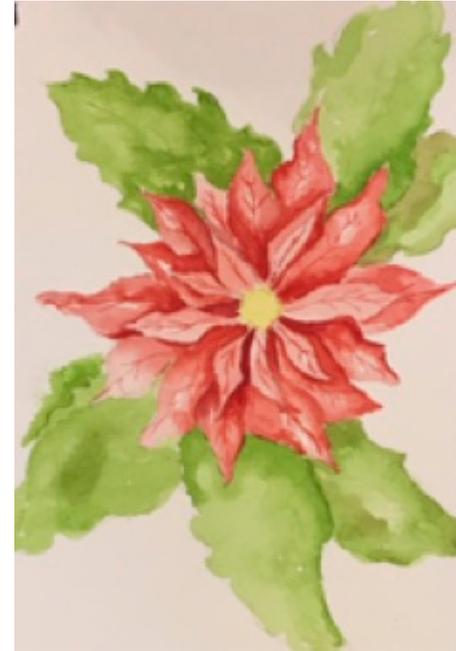
8:00 PM Candlelight Service with Adult Choir

Both services include the passing of candlelight while we sing Silent Night. There will be cider and cookies after both services.

All are welcome, including children, next Sunday morning, Dec. 29 at 10 AM for our annual Shelter Lunch Making Service when we will make over 200 lunches for residents of five area shelters.

FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



Artwork by Lindy Hanninen

*We are a community seeking to deepen spiritually, to take care of one another, and to be a blessing to the world.
Please visit our website: www.uugroton.org and our Facebook Page at First Parish Church of Groton, MA*

There is childcare for infants and toddlers through age 4 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 fabric pouches and picture books in each pew. The service is also broadcast downstairs if anyone needs to take a break during the service.