

**FIRST PARISH CHURCH of GROTON**

**January 5, 2020**

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

**Thoughts as the Service Begins**

For last year's words belong to last year's language  
And next year's words await another voice. (T.S. Eliot)

O my friend, take heart. The work of repair is aching in its slowness  
and beautiful in the inches by which it will arrive. (Jan Richardson)

*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** My Shining Hour (Harold Arlen)

**Welcome and Announcements** Donna Stram, Worship Leader

**\*Hymn** Morning Has Broken #38

**Chalice Lighting** Val Preslavaska, Coming of Age Youth

**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**

**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.*

**Reading** Clearing by Martha Postlewaite

**Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation**

**Offertory** Last Train Home (Pat Metheny)

**Sermon** Beautiful in the Inches Rev. Elea Kemler

**\*Hymn** May Nothing Evil Cross This Door #1

**\*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** Goin' Home (Dvorak)

*(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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Today's flowers are given by Deb and Rob Busser.

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: Michelle Stiller, Tom Roney, Nancy Burdine

Ushers: Julie Andrews, Krys Salon

Coffee Hour Hosts: Jai Luc Santoro, Sarah Stram

### Words of 2019 – A Partial List!

Resilience Contentment x2 Silence Dare Reverence Enough  
Quietude Outside Nature Lightness Go See/Slow Attend  
Balance Service Comitas Trim Forgiveness Create Gratitude  
Laughter Partnership Inspiring Inspire Kindness Persistence Green  
Francis! Sunshine Stability Growth Breathe Encourage  
Enough Healing Interest Free and Easy Friends Sing Peace Love  
Art Bliss Be Happy Wack Difference Listen Progress Faith  
Equality Tenderness (x2) Restore Generosity Strengthen and Savor  
Understanding Optimism Trust Emerge Overcome Stamina  
Mindful Healthy Now Intention Equanimity Winnowing  
Intent Blossom Clear Connect No Expectations Organization  
Friendship Serenity

**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



Ancient Light by Jan Richardson

### 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