

**FIRST PARISH CHURCH of GROTON**

**January 26, 2020**

**Ringing of the Bell**

Emma Rose Marella, Bell-Ringer

**Thoughts as the Service Begins**

Out of a great need  
we are all holding hands  
and climbing.  
Not loving is a letting go.  
Listen, the terrain is far too dangerous  
for that. (Hafiz)

You are the place where I stand on the day when my feet are sore.  
(Irish proverb)

*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.*

**Prelude** Now Let Us Sing (Anonymous) Adult Choir

**Welcome and Announcements** Melissa Wood, 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** Val Preslavaska

**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.*

**Sung Prayer** Walking Each Other Home (Munger, Threshold Choir)

*We are all just walking each other home.* (repeat x3)

**Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation**

**Offertory** The Gift of Love (Hal Hopson) Adult Choir

**Sermon** The Place Where I Stand Rev. Elea Kemler

**\*Hymn** Come Sing a Song With Me #346

**\*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** Peace Like a River (arranged by Donald Moore)  
Adult Choir

*(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 Diane & Richard Hewitt in memory of their beloved family, Hugh Allen and Doris Kessler Beetem.

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Greeters: Mike & Molly Foster, Tom Roney

Ushers: Krys Salon, Ellen Allen

Coffee Hour Hosts: Jai Luc Santoro, Sarah Stram

Special Thanks to the Adult Choir, with Mary Timmons conducting and Loretto Roney, accompanist for providing today's music!

**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 sign one of the Guest Books** on the tables near the front and back entrances, or send us an email at [Welcoming@uugroton.org](mailto:Welcoming@uugroton.org). We would love to be able to send you the monthly print newsletter and weekly emails about life at First Parish. Look for anyone wearing a yellow nametag at coffee hour. They are members of our Welcoming All team and would love to answer any questions or just get to know you.

## FIRST PARISH CHURCH Groton, Massachusetts



Church in Winter – photo by Heather Gath

### **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