

**First Parish Church of Groton, Unitarian Universalist  
Welcome and Announcement Script for Sunday Lay Leader**

- ◆ **Please arrive and be available in the sanctuary by 9:45 AM** (service begins at 10:00 AM). People need to be able to give you last minute announcements.
- ◆ Please sit up front in the chancel in the chair across from the minister.
- ◆ Here is the basic “script.” Feel free to put this in your own words, *but do not add to its length!*:

*Start Here:*

*May the path to this sanctuary be wide enough to receive all who hunger for love, and all who are lonely for companionship.*

*May it welcome all who have cares to unburden, thanks to express, hopes to nurture.*

*May the path to this sanctuary be narrow enough to shut out pettiness and pride, envy and hatred.*

*May its threshold be no stumbling block to young or unsteady feet.*

*May it be too high to admit selfishness and cruelty.*

*May this be a sanctuary for all who enter the pathway to a deeper knowledge of the spirit and a more compassionate way of living.*

Welcome to Sunday Services at First Parish Church of Groton! My name is ----- and I am happy to welcome you here this morning whether it is your first time here or your thousandth.

If you are visiting us for the first time, I hope you find something of what you came looking for here and that you will return again. There is more information about our church on the Newcomer’s table on the stage in the big room below us. We hope you will sign a guestbook by the doors downstairs or fill out a pew card and put it in the offering box.

I invite everyone to stay for food and conversation after the service downstairs. If you are newer to First Parish, please take a blue cup, so we can make sure to give you a warm welcome. I’d like to call your attention to the many announcements printed in your order of service. I encourage you to read them. In addition, I have these announcements: *(Please read only announcements that are not already in the order of service. If they are printed, just call people’s attention to them.)*

Large print hymnals and orders of service and assisted listening devices are available from the ushers. If you would like more information about our

religious education programs, please visit the religious education committee table downstairs. If you have not already done so, please turn off the ringers on your cell phones, and other electronic devices.

If you are here for the first time, some of the children would like to give you a special sticker for your nametag. If you are willing, please wave your hand in the air so the children can find you.

Children might like to come sit on the benches upfront so they can see better. If any children or adults have brought food for the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry please bring it up and place it in the box under the candle table. *(Don't wait for children to come forward, just go right on.)* Please stand as you are willing and able and take a moment to greet your neighbors by wishing them Peace be with you or simply saying Good Morning.

(Pause for greeting time)

Now let's sing the opening hymn number -----.

◆ Feel free to take your seat in the Sanctuary once people start singing. Thank you!