

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

March 21, 2010

Ringing of the Bell Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

A Thought as the Service Begins

None of our private worlds is big enough for us to live a wholesome life. We need the wider world of joy and wonder, of purpose and venture, of toil and tears. What are we, any of us, but strangers and sojourners wandering through the nighttime, until we draw together and find the meaning of our lives in one another, dissolving our fears in each other's courage, making music together, and lighting torches to guide us through the dark. We belong together.

(A. Powell Davies)

(We ask that you turn off the ringers on your cell phones, beepers and electronic devices. Please join us in a time of quiet during the prelude.)

Prelude Cornet Voluntary (anonymous - 18th century)

Call to Worship Touch the Earth, Reach the Sky Adult Choir
(Grace Lewis-McLaren)

Welcome and Announcements Ed McNierney, Worship Leader

***Hymn** Gather the Spirit #347

Chalice Lighting Rocky Sandy

Response Hymn *(please remain seated)* #123

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 and Teachers to Church School #413

Go now in peace. Go now in peace.
May the love of God surround you
Everywhere, everywhere you may go. (repeat)

Candles of Celebration and Concern

You are invited to come forward, light a candle and briefly share a joy or sorrow that has touched your life.

Anthem Good News, The Chariot's Comin' Adult Choir
(arr. Moses Hogan)

Reading from Take This Bread by Sara Miles

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Offertory Andante Maestoso (John Worgan)

***Offertory Response** *(Words: Barbara Rich; Music: Joshua Rich)*

Today we give our time
Our compassion, wit and song
Everyday we can choose,
To begin again in love.

We give what we can,
Generous as we can
Opening the doors
To begin again in love.

Sermon Is Anyone Thirsty? Come and Drink Rev. Elea Kemler

***Hymn** Here We Have Gathered #360

*Sung Benediction

Carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again.
Oh, carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again.

Postlude Voluntary in D (William Croft)

(Please remain seated during the Postlude. You are also invited to come to the front of the church and light a candle silently during this time. Please place your candle toward the back of the candle table. We ask the congregation to remain seated in quiet until the last candle is lit.)

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

Large Print Hymnals, Sunday Bulletins and Assisted Listening Devices are available at the sanctuary doors. If you don't wish to keep your Sunday Bulletin, please place it one of the recycle baskets at the sanctuary exits.

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Join us downstairs for soup, bread, desserts, coffee and conversation immediately following the service!

The flowers in church this morning are given by
Rebecca Pike in celebration of her birthday.
*Two roads diverged in a wood, and I,
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference. Robert Frost*

Greeters: Carol Bousquet, Alison Dolbear
Ushers: Gregg Baker, Alice Van Ormer

WELCOME TO VISITORS: Visitors are encouraged to sign the Visitor's Book downstairs. Please stop by the Newcomer's Table on the stage in the Vestry. It has information on the First Parish Church and Unitarian Universalism. Join us for our fellowship hour in the Vestry following the service. Nametags help us to identify one another. You can order one at the Visitors' Table. Our minister, staff and identified leaders are available to meet with you to answer questions about our community.

THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON was gathered as the town church in 1664. The congregation worships in its fourth Meeting House which was completed in 1755. A town clock and Revere-cast bell rings out our call to service every Sunday. The congregation is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association, a liberal faith that affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth; a free and responsible search for truth and meaning; the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large; the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; and respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Membership is open to all age 13 and older. If you are interested in membership, please speak to the minister or any member of the Membership Committee.

"First Parish is a Unitarian Universalist Association Welcoming Congregation. We warmly welcome members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community."

Officers of the First Parish:

Chair, Board of Trustees	Karen Johnson	(978) 448-9158
Senior Deacon	Becky Pine	(978) 448-2710
Treasurer	Roger Allen	(978) 448-6089
Clerk	Barbara Murray	(978) 448-3706

Our Web Page: www.uugroton.org **Email:** office@uugroton.org

Office Hours are Tuesday–Friday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The office telephone number is 978-448-6307.

Our newsletter is published monthly from September through June. The deadline for submitting articles is the 15th of the previous month. Articles can be submitted through the church e-mail address, on disk, or placed on the administrator's desk.



FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts

"We are a community seeking to deepen spiritually, to take care of one another, and to be a blessing to the world."

A Warm Welcome to All!

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 soft, red pouches in each pew. The service is also broadcast downstairs in the large room beneath us if children become restless.