

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

March 15, 2015

Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

Thoughts as the Service Begins:

The marvelous thing about our 17th century ancestors, in my eyes, is this: They saw that if the free church is about the working of the spirit of mutual love, then that fact ought to shape the organization of the church, everything from how you join, to what joining means, to how church decisions are made. (Alice Blair Wesley)

Love is the spirit of this church,
and service is its law.
This is our great covenant:
To dwell together in peace,
To seek the truth in love,
And to help one another.

(James Vila Blake, 1894)

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

Prelude Voluntary V in D (Handel)

Call to Worship Filled With Loving Kindness
(Words: traditional Buddhist meditation, adapted;
Music: Ian W. Riddell) Adult Choir

Welcome and Announcements Karen Goudy, Worship Leader

***Hymn** Morning Has Broken #38

Chalice Lighting Janet & David Jaworski

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.

Welcoming the Traditional Chinese Lion Dance, performed by the
Wah Lum Kung Fu Demo Team of Concord

Musical Interlude

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 and feelings into a sentence.)

Anthem Cantique de Jean Racine (Gabriel Faure) Adult Choir

Reading Excerpt from Little Gidding V, Four Quartets
by T. S. Eliot

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation Rev. Elea Kemler

Offertory Voluntary III in C (Handel)

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 We Begin Again in Love
Karen G. Johnston, Intern Minister

***Hymn** Lo the Earth Awakens Again #61

***Sung Benediction** Carry the Flame
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 II in G (John Alcock)

(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.)
continued on back cover

***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 good food and conversation immediately following the service!

If you would like to donate flowers, the sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board near the vestry kitchen.

Greeters: Susan Fry, Sarah Woods, Margaret Burdine
Ushers: Alice Van Ormer and Don Torgersen
Coffee Hour Host: Brayden Woods & Austin Edwards

WELCOME ALL VISITORS. We are glad you are here. Join us for coffee and conversation after the service where you can meet our minister, Elea. Everyone here is happy to speak with you and answer any questions you may have. Please sign one of the Guest Books on the tables near the front and back entrances so we can know who you are. Be sure to indicate if you want to get emails or newsletters about events in and related to First Parish.

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."

This year's theme, Vocabulary of Faith and its words come from the book *"Fluent in Faith"* by Jeanne Harrison Nieuwejaar.

We are exploring words associated with faith to learn more about them and their impact on our spiritual lives. Some quotes on the front of the OOS come from the book directly.

FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



"Color Study" by Terri Ragot

March - Mercy/Loving-Kindness

Hesed is the Hebrew word most often translated as mercy, sometimes also translated as loving-kindness. What a gentle, human quality this suggests-something more than simple kindness. It is an action flowing forth from a deep feeling.

"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*

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