

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

April 5, 2015

Ringing of the Bell Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

Thoughts as the Service Begins

love is the voice under all silences,
the hope which has no opposite in fear. (e.e. cummings)

We are here to celebrate our lives and Life itself,
whether it blossoms in delicate spring flowers
or rises strong in women, men, and children
dedicated to peace and a world made just.
The alleluia of this Easter is a call to such rising,
an invitation to such blossoming.

It is a summons in word, sign and music
to refuse to be ashamed of our joy and our love. (Mark Belletini)

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

Prelude Sonata L. 90 (Domenico Scarlatti)

Call to Worship Rejoice Together Everyone (Barrie Cabena)
-Adult Choir

Welcome and Announcements Danika Garner, Worship Leader

***Hymn** Lo, the Earth Awakes Again #61

Chalice Lighting Meghann Porter Marshall and Eric Marshall,
William, Jane and Tommy

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

Offertory and Reverse Offering Recit de Nazard (Charpentier)

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.

Embodied Prayer Karen G. Johnston, Intern Minister

Anthem The Heavens Are Telling (Franz Joseph Haydn)
-Adult Choir

Easter Message A Call to Such Rising Rev. Elea Kemler

***Hymn** The Blue Green Hills of Earth (Kim Oler)
(see insert)

***Sung Benediction** *(Patricia Pavey)*
Carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again.
Oh, carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again.

Postlude Fugue III (J.C. Kellner)

*(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.**

*Join us downstairs for good food and conversation immediately
following the service!*

*Large Print Hymnals, Large Print Easter Bulletins and Assisted
Listening Devices are available at the sanctuary doors.*

FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts

Today's Chancel flowers are given in celebration of the
life of a dear friend, Peter Moller

The lilies on the window sills and Narthex are in honor of
Bob & Ruth McConnell and Andy & Laura Anderson

Greeters: Carol Swift, Judy Nauman and June Johnson

Ushers: Suzanne Nelson, Deb Boczenowski,
and Bob & Donna Nowak

Coffee Hour Hosts: 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.



Watercolor by Shirley Man

"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.