

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

April 26, 2015

Ringing of the Bell Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

A Thought as the Service Begins:

So this is where we begin — by acknowledging that our times confront us with realities that are painful to face, difficult to take in, and confusing to live with. Our approach is to see this as the starting point of an amazing journey that strengthens us and deepens our aliveness. (Joanna Macy)

(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 Trumpet Voluntary (John Bennett)

Welcome and Announcements Terri Ragot, Worship Leader

***Hymn** Blue Boat Home #1064

Chalice Lighting Abigail Kramer

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 New Members

Steve Lieman, Deacon & the Welcoming All Committee

Singing the Children and Teachers to Church School

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

Reading "Earth" by Mark Belletini Rev. Elea Kemler

Well of Gratitude, Well of Tears

(We are doing things a bit differently today. You are invited to come forward, to offer into one container a bright bead of glass to represent your gratitude for this earth and/or into the other container a silent stone of pain/grief, representing something you despair or grieve based on the challenges facing our planet.)

Spoken Prayer and Silent Meditation

Karen G. Johnston, Intern Minister

Offertory Pastoral (Charles Wesley)

Offertory Response *Words: Sue Gleason; Music: Old 100th*

Thanks be to all who freely give
Who guide us in the way to live
With generosity of heart
Inspiring us to do our part

Sermon Holding this Earth: Our Gratitude, Our Pain, Our Hope
Karen G. Johnston, Intern Minister

***Hymn** Fire of Commitment #1028

***Sung Benediction** Carry the Flame (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 & Going Forth Fugue in C Minor (Charles Burney)

(In the pews, there are post-it notes. You are invited to write a commitment to going forth, to heal the earth and ourselves. During the postlude add your note to the poster ~ made by the Middle Matters youth. 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 good food and conversation
immediately following the service!*

The flowers in church this morning are given by Tom Crow in memory of his daughter, Eleanor Elizabeth Crow-Blake.

Greeters: Carol Swift, and Katharyn & Keith Dawson
Ushers: Suzanne Nelson and Gregg Baker
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."

FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



Artwork by Hatzy Hornblower

April - Atonement

"The task is not about comfort; it is about truth. Awkward is irrelevant. You get to choose now, you have to choose whether and how you will participate in restoration." (Victoria Safford, "At One") Atonement, or forgiveness, is a two-sided affair: how we participate after we have not been our best selves and how we respond to that person or persons who has not shown us their best selves. Our Universalist heritage tells us that no matter what, God is Love, that we co-create forgiveness here and now in how we are with each other. Our faith calls us to embody this in our daily lives.

"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.