

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

May 24, 2015

Ringing of the Bell

Thoughts as the Service Begins:

“We know in our heads that we will die. But we have to know it in our hearts. We have to let this fact penetrate our bones. Then we will know how to live. To do that, we need to be able to look at the fact of death with steadiness. We can’t just glance at it casually.” (Larry Rosenberg)

It began in mystery, and it will end in mystery, but what a savage and beautiful country lies in between. (Diane Ackerman)

(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 What Wondrous Love (arr. Jack C. Goode)

Welcome and Announcements Steve Boczenowski
Worship Leader

***Hymn** What Wondrous Love is This? #18

Chalice Lighting Sue Gleason

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.

Reading “The Last Rites of the Bokononist Faith” (excerpt)
by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., read by Gregg Baker

Time for All Generations

“God Went to India” by Cynthia Rylant

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 Long Afternoon at the Edge of Sister Pond by Mary Oliver

Hymn When I Rise

When I rise,
let me rise
Like a bird,
with no regrets
Joyfully

When I fall,
let me fall
Like a leaf
with no regrets
Gracefully.

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 into one or two sentences.)

Spoken Prayer and Silent Meditation

Offertory Let Praise Ring Forth (Edward Broughton)

Offertory Response (Words: Melinda Green; Music: Shawn McCann)

We thank each other for these gifts
Which makes our giving bless-ed.
We bless the works our gifts sustain
And pray they ripple outward.
With grace and generosity
We show our faith enacted.

Sermon On Not Waiting to Be the Hummingbird
Karen G. Johnston, Intern Minister

***Hymn** Just As Long As I Have Breath #6

(Continued on Back Cover)

***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 Allegro Vivace (G. F. Handel)

(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 good food and conversation immediately following the service!

The flowers in church this morning are given by Jan Hadland in memory of her father, John O. Paivinen.

Greeters: Marge & Dave Kimpton and Pat Hartvigsen
Ushers: Loretto Roney and Deb Boczenowski
Coffee Hour Host: Brayden Woods & Austin Edwards

*Special Thanks to our Guest Music Director, Charlotte Russell.

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.

FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



Watercolor by Hatzy Hornblower

May - Grace

The simple rush of wind is a gift available to all of us for the taking. This is grace-gifts unsought and perhaps unexpected. Grace suggests that there is a benevolence in the universe, a source of love and beauty.

"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.