

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

May 31, 2015

## Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

## Thoughts as the Service Begins:

We have been born into a moment  
of unprecedented danger and opportunity.  
It is time.

Our purpose here  
is to build a bridge.  
The purpose of the bridge  
is to span the distance  
between our present situation  
and our vision of a better world.

The beauty of a bridge is that,  
once it is in place,  
anyone can walk on it.

A few people can build a bridge  
that can be walked on by many. ..

To choose to build a bridge is the essential act of love.

(Paul Williams)

*(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** We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder (arr. Clif Hardin)

**Welcome and Announcements** Sue Lotz, Worship Leader  
Special Greeting offered by the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Spirit Explorers

**\*Hymn** Circle Game (Joni Mitchell) insert

**Chalice Lighting** Barbara Rich

**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.

## Closing Ceremony for Spirit Explorers

Liz Davis-Chaffin and Sherry Spaulding

## Bridging Ceremony

**\*Hymn** Bridge Over Troubled Waters (Paul Simon)  
verses 1 and 2

### \*Blessing

May the nourishment of the earth be yours,  
giving your strength.  
May the clarity of morning and evening light be yours,  
giving you vision and wisdom.  
May the fluency of the ocean be yours,  
giving you perspective and hope.  
May the protection of the ancestors be yours,  
giving you comfort and peace.  
Wrap these words of love around you like an invisible cloak,  
to warm and shelter your life.  
Go forth with joy.  
Come home to us often.  
And may your days be good and long upon the earth!  
(John O'Donohue, adapted by Elea Kemler)

**\*Hymn** Bridge Over Troubled Waters, verse 3

**Anthem** No Matter Where You Are (Dalton Cyr) Youth Choir

## 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

## 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** Rev. Elea Kemler

**Offertory** Flower to the Sun (Clif Hardin)  
*(continued on back cover)*

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



Watercolor by Shirley Man

## *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](http://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.

## **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.

## **Senior Sermon**

Anya Harter

**\*Hymn** I'm On My Way #116

**\*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** Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (arr. Clif Hardin)

*(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*

\* \* \* \*

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

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The flowers in church this morning are given by Bernadette and Jackie Dureault in loving memory of their father.

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**Greeters:** Fran Bergeron, Cathy Gilson and Owen Shuman

**Ushers:** Mary Jennings and Deb Boczenowski

**Coffee Hour Host:** Brayden Woods & Austin Edwards

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