

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

June 7, 2015

## Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

## Thoughts as the Service Begins:

*All praise be yours through Brother Wolf,  
All praise be yours through Sister Whale  
by Nature's song may Life be praised  
by Brother Eagle, Sister Loon, through Brother Tiger, Sister Seal  
through Sister Flower, Brother Tree  
let creatures all give thanks to thee, all praise to those who live in  
peace.*

*Ask the Beasts and they shall teach you the beauty of the Earth.  
Ask of the Trees and they shall teach you the beauty of the Earth.  
Ask of the Beasts and they shall teach you the beauty of the Earth.  
Ask of the Flowers and they shall teach you the beauty of the Earth.*

("from Canticle of Brother Sun" words adapted by Paul  
Winter from St. Francis' "Canticle of Brother Sun" and the  
book of Job.)

*(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** Sonata 3, Op. 120, 1<sup>st</sup> movement – Allegro Moderato  
(Franz Schubert)

**Welcome and Announcements** Donna Nowak, Worship Leader

**\*Hymn** Morning Has Broken #38

**Chalice Lighting** Michael Roberts

**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 and Species

## Responsive Reading by Mary de la Valette, much adapted

Blessed are the animals, for they shall lead us back to our lost  
innocence.

*Blessed are the great whales, for their vast intelligence is  
peaceful.*

Blessed are the elephants, for they are pure of heart.

*Blessed indeed are the elephants, for they are pure of heart  
and their love is deep and long.*

Blessed is the wolf, for she was there at the dawn of Creation.

*Blessed is the eagle, for his dignity and power.*

Blessed is the antelope, for her grace and fleeting quickness,

*Blessed indeed is the antelope, who trembles when danger  
comes.*

Blessed is the cow, for she is the ancient symbol of peace.

*Blessed is the little mouse, who seeks shelter from the cold.*

Blessed are the rabbits, for their playfulness and their joy.

*Blessed indeed are the rabbits, who hurt nothing and are  
the fecundity of the earth.*

Blessed are the bees, for they make the Earth fruitful and green and  
sticky with honey.

*Blessed are our cousins the Great Apes. May they forgive us  
for refusing to treat them as kin.*

Blessed are the great cats, the lion and the leopard, for surely their  
perfection has no equal.

*Blessed indeed are the great cats, their perfection teaches  
us humility and awe.*

*ALL: Blessed are all wild, free things, for they live in harmony with  
the Earth. Blessed are the animals with whom we share our homes,  
for they tie us to the rest of Creation. Blessed is humankind, who has  
gone so far astray. May we listen to earth's other voices and learn to  
become true shepherds to the flock. And blessed is the Creation in all  
its beauty, for the Spirit of Holiness dwells in every living thing.*

## Spoken Prayer and Silent Meditation

Karen G. Johnston,  
Intern Minister

**Offertory** The Girl With the Flaxen Hair (Claude Debussy)

**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

*Continued on back cover*

And pray they ripple outward  
With grace and generosity  
We show our faith enacted.

### Blessing of the Animals

1. Stuffed animals
2. Any small animals with fur, scales or fins  
(no dogs or cats yet)
3. Cats
4. Smallish dogs
5. Medium and large dogs
6. Barnyard animals
7. Animals we remember in spirit and beloved memory

\*Hymn All Creatures of the Earth and Sky #203

\*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 Sonatina - Allegro (Muzio Clementi)

*(Please remain seated during the Postlude.)*

**\*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.*

\* \* \* \*

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

---

The flowers in church this morning are given by the congregation of  
the Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church in celebration of  
Aaron Stockwell's ordination

---

Greeters: Bernadette Dureault and Suzanne Nelson  
Ushers: Jackie Frey and Pamela Worden  
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 ministers. *"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



Art by Ariana Durkin

## June -Pilgrimage

*A journey can become a sacred thing; make sure before you go,  
to take time to bless your going forth, to free your heart of  
ballast so that the compass of your soul might direct you  
toward the territories of spirit where you will discover more of  
your hidden life, and the urgencies that deserve to claim you.*

*"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.