

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

September 13, 2015

## Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

## Thoughts as the Service Begins:

And may it be in this house of a year  
that the seasons will spin in beauty,  
and may it be in these turning days  
that time will spiral with joy.

And may it be that its rooms will fill  
with ordinary grace  
and light spill from every window  
to welcome the stranger home. (Jan Richardson)

And the world cannot be discovered by a journey of miles,  
no matter how long,  
but only by a spiritual journey, a journey of one inch,  
very arduous and humbling and joyful,  
by which we arrive at the ground at our feet,  
and learn to be at home. (Wendell Berry)

*(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)

**Call to Worship** Welcome, Welcome (Clif Hardin) Open Choir

**Welcome and Announcements** Danika Garner, Worship Leader

**\*Hymn** There's a River Flowin' in My Soul #1007, turquoise

*(All children and youth are asked to help return the chalice!  
Please gather in the center aisle at the beginning of the hymn if you  
would like to help.)*

## Words for Returning the Chalice to our Sanctuary

*Leader:* We learn from the sea how to hold this light.

**Congregation:** Gently, lightly, we hold this light.

*Leader:* This light says, "Love exists in as many ways as  
there are angles of the sun on the ocean."

**Congregation:** Gently, lightly, we hold this light.

*Leader:* This light says, "Love exists in as many ways as  
there are beating hearts in this room."

**Congregation:** Gently, lightly, we hold this light.

*Leader:* This room is filled with light.

**Congregation:** Gently, lightly, we hold this light.

*Leader:* Our chalice holds our light. It is warmth and  
brightness.

**Congregation:** Gently, lightly, we hold this light.

**ALL:** May the light of love shine strongly here. May we  
bring this love into the world.

## Chalice Lighting

Holly Durkin

## 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.

**Anthem** We Laugh, We Cry (Shelley Jackson Denham) Open Choir

**A Time for All Generations** Karen G. Johnston, Intern Minister

**Offertory** Wake Now, My Senses (traditional, arr. Clif Hardin)

**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.

## Gathering the Water

*(All are invited to come forward and pour a bit of water into the  
common bowl. You may wish to speak a word, about your water or  
your spirit, as you pour. If you brought a shell with you today please  
bring that forward also and place it in the glass container.)*

Music: Holy Waters (Jason Shelton, Mary Katherine Morn)

Holy waters make us new

Holy waters make us whole

Holy waters make us free

Holy waters make us one

*(Continued on back cover)*

## Blessing the Water

\*Hymn Blue Boat Home #1064, turquoise

\*Sung Benediction #414

As we leave this friendly place,  
love give light to every face.  
May the kindness which we've learned,  
light our hearts 'til we return.

Postlude Fugue in f minor (Charles Burney)

*(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. 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!*

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The flowers in church this morning are given by Donna Nowak. The hydrangeas are from my lovingly cared for garden. The antique pitchers are from my mother's and my collection. We love the 12 foot tall, 100 year old hydrangea, whose flower seeds feed the birds all winter long.

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Greeters: Sue Gleason and the Grosso family; Amy, Jason, Ivan and Avery

Ushers: Suzanne Nelson and Deb Boczenowski

Coffee Hour Host: Austin Edwards

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

### About Today's Music

Trumpet Voluntary is the name given to some English keyboard pieces from the Baroque era. A trumpet voluntary is most commonly played on the organ using the trumpet stop, hence the name. Trumpet voluntaries usually consist of a slow introduction followed by a faster section with the right hand playing fanfare-like figures over a simple accompaniment in the left hand. In some instances, the Trumpet is replaced by the Cornet stop, or even an Oboe or Flute stop. Echo effects are also used sometimes.

*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



*Emergence by Hatzy Hornblower*

## Pilgrimage—Hearing the Call

Before the journey comes the call. Whether late at night, in mid-day, via a still, small voice, or rolling thunder, the message finds all who are poised to listen.

A voice comes to your soul saying

Lift your foot. Cross over.

Move into emptiness

Of question, and answer and question.

(Rumi) *Crossing the Threshold*

*"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.