

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

September 20, 2015

Ringing of the Bell Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

Thoughts as the Service Begins:

It isn't love that makes the world go round but compassion – starting over in gentleness when love hasn't been enough or other factors have failed: a gentle refusal to blame oneself or others and just begin again. (Rev. Nancy M. Shaffer, 1950 – 2012)

Because we are imperfect and love so deeply we will never have enough days. We need the gift of starting over, beginning again... (Nancy M. Shaffer)

(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 Voluntary V (John Alcock)

Call to Worship Welcome (Vera Fontaine) Children's Choir

Welcome and Announcements Donna Stram, Worship Leader

***Hymn** Morning Has Come #1000

Chalice Lighting Laura Ruth Scolnick-Guilmette

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

Anthem Soon the Day Will Arrive (Ehud Manor and Nurit Hirsch)
Children's Choir

Singing the Children and Teachers to Religious Education

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

Religious Education begins today. Welcome! Children will gather downstairs in the Vestry – the big room below us – to meet their teachers and join in a circle of friends. Then each age group will go with their teachers to their classrooms.

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.)

Reading Calling by Nancy M. Shaffer Karen G. Johnston,
Intern Minister

Spoken Prayer and Silent Meditation

Congregation: We forgive ourselves and each other.

We begin again in love.

Offertory Be Thou My Vision (trad., arr. Jason Shelton)

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 Hearing the Call to Renewal Rev. Elea Kemler

***Hymn** Hush (verses 1,2,3,5) #1040 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.

(Continued on back cover)

Postlude Variations from organ concerto Set 1, Op. 4, No. 1
(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 Carol Swift, savoring the warmth of the last days of summer.

Greeters: Carol Swift, Thomas Roney and Sarah Iacobucci
Ushers: Suzanne Nelson and Loretto Roney
Coffee Hour Host: 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. 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 is a Unitarian Universalist Association Welcoming Congregation. We warmly welcome members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community."

FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



Heritage Apples 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. (Irv Rockwood)

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

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.