

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

October 4, 2015

Ringing of the Bell Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

A Thought as the Service Begins:

And did you get what you wanted from this life, even so?
I did.

And what did you want?

To call myself beloved, to feel myself
beloved on the earth. (Raymond Carver, Late Fragment)

*(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 in d minor (William Boyce)

Call to Worship Spirit of Truth, of Life, of Power
(Westwood, Mason) Adult Choir

Welcome and Announcements Andrea Mason, Worship Leader

***Hymn** Building a New Way #1017, turquoise

Chalice Lighting Rebecca Pike

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

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.)*

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

*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.*

Anthem I Will Sing With the Spirit (John Rutter) Adult Choir

Reading Remember by Christine Valters

Paintner

Spoken Prayer and Silent Meditation

Offertory Siciliano (John Alcock, jr.)

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 Ten Thousand Prayers, Ten Thousand Paths to Hope

Rev. Elea Kemler

***Hymn** Life Calls Us On (insert)

***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 Allegro (Thomas Arne)

*(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!

Please sign up to donate flowers for Sunday services. The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board near the Vestry kitchen. Flowers can come from nature, your own garden or a florist. We love to see everyone's creative designs.

Greeters: Fran Bergeron, June Adams Johnson and Steve Lieman
Ushers: Betty Keddy and Pat Fairchild
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 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.

THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON was gathered as the town church in 1664. The congregation worships in its fourth Meeting House which was completed in 1755. A town clock and Revere-cast bell rings out our call to service every Sunday. The congregation is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association, a liberal faith that affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth; a free and responsible search for truth and meaning; the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large; the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; and respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

"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



October Days by Carol Sarasin

Pilgrimage—Responding to the Call

To journey and be transformed by the journey is to be a pilgrim. (Mark Nepo)

I long for You so much
I have even begun to travel
Where I have never been before. (Hafiz)

"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.