

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

October 11, 2015

## Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

## Thoughts as the Service Begins:

How to discuss the truth  
...that some men love men,  
and some women, women, and some, both,  
with the children in the church school and church home?...  
With the full iris of our living tradition in the eye.  
Without using the inherited Augustinian scalpel  
that splits flesh from spirit and pleasure from good.  
Without homilies on toleration.  
With the words "some of us" and not the words "them" and "they."  
With as much heart as intellect.  
Without embarrassment.  
With stories and examples as wonderful as a tale by Seuss.  
With rhapsodies on the glories of friendship.  
With gladness for uncertainties.  
With joy. (Mark Belletini)

*(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

Allegro (William Hine)

## Call to Worship

May This Light Shine (Agnes V. Paulsen)  
-Children's Choir

## Welcome and Announcements

Deb Kelly, Worship Leader

## \*Hymn

How Could Anyone #1053

## Chalice Lighting

Karen Goudey

## 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 Skit for All Generations

Leadership Pilgrims

## Anthem

When The Spirit Says Do  
(traditional African American spiritual, arr. Mark Freundt)  
-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

*Children will gather downstairs in the Vestry for Religious Education  
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

Marginal Wisdom by Leslie Takahashi  
Read in Three Voices by Barbara Rich, Michael Foster and  
Karen Goudey

## Spoken Prayer and Silent Meditation

## Offertory

Adagio (John Bennett)

## 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

Everything Possible: On the Fluidity of Humanity  
Karen G. Johnston, Intern Minister

## \*Hymn

I Wish I Knew How #151

*Continued on back cover*

**\*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**

Voluntary in a minor (John James)

*(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.*

\* \* \* \*

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

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Flowers today are given in memory of Susan McLean by her sister.

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Greeters: Diane Hewitt, Pat Fairchild and Deborah Johnson

Ushers: Annie McGinty 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 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.

# 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](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.