

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

November 1, 2015

You are welcome to place photos of loved ones, symbolic objects and food on the table up front or on any of the windowsills.

Ringing of the Bell Rebecca Pike, First Parish Bell Ringer

Thought as the Service Begins:

Those who live
in the spaces between our breathing
in the corner of our vision
in the hollows of our bones
in the chambers of our heart:

nowhere can they be touched
yet still, how they move us,
how they move in us,

made from the tissue of memory
like the veil between the worlds
that stirs at the merest breath...
and then is at rest. (Jan Richardson)

(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 Toccata in e minor (Johann Pachelbel)

Call to Worship Early Will I Seek Thee (Thomas Weelkes)
Adult Choir

Welcome and Announcements Ed McNierney, Worship Leader

***Hymn** Gather the Spirit #347

Chalice Lighting Amy Grosso

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

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

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.)

Anthem The Road Not Taken (Robert Frost, Randall Thompson)
-Adult Choir

Spoken Prayer and Silent Meditation Karen G. Johnston

Offertory Fugue in e minor (T.S. Dupuis)

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.

Reflections on Love and Grief Frank Sapp

Calling the Names of the Beloved

***Hymn** Comfort Me #1002, 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

Voluntary in e minor (John Stanley)

(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!

Flowers today are given by Sue Beers in loving memory of
Scott and Nathan Griffith.

Greeters: Mary Jennings, Suzanne Nelson and Donna Nowak
Ushers: Jackie Frey & Bernadette Dureault
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, Elea and Karen. 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



Artwork by Marina Smyth
Pilgrimage—Making the Way by Walking

Journeying god,
Pitch your tent with mine
So that I may not become deterred
By hardship, strangeness, doubt.
Show me the movement I must make
Toward a wealth not dependent on possessions,
Toward a wisdom not based on books,
Toward a strength not bolstered by might,
Toward a god not confined to heaven.
Help me find myself as I walk in others' shoes. (Kathy Comston)

"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.