

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

November 15, 2015

Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike

Thoughts as the Service Begins:

When we make our way by walking, it demands a radical kind of surrender. It calls us to release of our desire for maps, GPS, and guidebooks. We have been invited into a deep trust of our own longings and where they will lead us.

(Cindy Valters Painter)

We travelers, walking to the sun, can't see
Ahead, but looking back the very light
That blinded us shows us the way we came,
Along which blessings now appear, risen
As if from sightlessness to sight, and we,
By blessing brightly lit, keep going toward
The blessed light that yet to us is dark. (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

Cornet Voluntary (John Travers)

Call to Worship

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

Welcome and Announcements

Amy Grosso, Worship Leader
Peace Greeting led by the 5th grade Spirit Seekers

*Hymn

Come and Go With Me #1018

Chalice Lighting

Barbara Rich

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.

Opening Ceremony for 5th Grade Spirit Seekers

Terri Ragot and Tom Crow will offer blessings.

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 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

Harvest Days (Christina Rosetti/Alice Parker)
Adult Choir

Reading

Caminante no hay Camino (Wanderer, there is no
Road) by Antonio Machado

Spoken Prayer and Silent Meditation

Karen G. Johnston

Offertory

Pastorale (Philip Hayes)

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

We Make the Way by Walking Rev. Elea Kemler

*Hymn

There is More Love Somewhere #95

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 G (William Boyce)

(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 consider donating flowers for Sunday's Service

Greeters: Peg Lorenz, Trish Garrigan and Suzanne Nelson
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 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



Fall Colors by Carol Sarasin

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.