

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

November 29, 2015

Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike

Thoughts as the Service Begins:

It is one of the mysteries of the road,
how the blessing
you have traveled toward,
waited for, ached for
suddenly appears,
as if it had been with you
all this time,
as if it simply needed to know
how far you were willing to walk
to find the lines
that were traced upon you
before the day
you were born.
(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 Voluntary in C (William Boyce)

Welcome and Announcements Abbie Clark, Worship Leader

***Hymn** Enter, Rejoice and Come In #361

Chalice Lighting Anya Harter

Lighting the First Candle on the Advent Wreath

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 – for a Game Sunday today.*

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 Drawing Near: A Blessing for Advent by Jan Richardson

Spoken Prayer and Silent Meditation

Offertory The Old Castle from Pictures at an Exhibition
(Mussorgsky)

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.

Sermons Making the Way by Walking Christina Rogers
Marisa Benson

***Hymn** Blue Boat Home #1064

***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 B flat (Maurice Greene)

(Continued on Back Cover)

(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!

Flowers for this service are given in loving memory of Beatrice Colby Synnott from her daughter Marcia Synnott and son Thomas Synnott.

Greeters: Pat Hartvigsen and Dale Martin
Ushers: Pamela Worden & 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 Kaitlin Kramer

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.