

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

December 6, 2015

Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike

Thought as the Service Begins:

What to do with beauty?
or joy, for that matter -
in the midst of tragedy,
of violence, of cruelty?

What do we do with the living?

Give each their due.
Do not lose ourselves in any of it,
but find ourselves anew.

Where there is beauty, amplify it.
Where beauty is hidden, reveal it.
Where beauty is ruined, restore it.
Where beauty is absent, create it.

This will be our gift to our aching world. (Karen G. Johnston)

*(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

Fugue in C Minor (Jean Jacques Charpentier)

Call to Worship

One Small World (Lucy Holstedt)
- Open Choir

Welcome and Announcements

Donna Stram, Worship Leader

*Hymn

We Are Building a New Way #1017, turquoise

Lighting the Chalice and Advent Wreath

Sue Gleason

Lighting the Menorah

Dina Samfield and Dana Maloney

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.

Anthem

Light One Candle (Peter Yarrow; arr. Shawn McCann)
-Open 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

*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.*

The Welcome and Celebration of New Members

Song: This Little Light of Mine

#118

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.)*

Spoken Prayer and Silent Meditation

Offertory

Recit de Nazard (Jean Jacques Charpentier)

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

Go Lightly, Toward Light, Toward Beauty

Rev. Elea Kemler

*Hymn

We'll Build a Land

#121

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

Fugue III (Johann Christoph Kellner)

(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 Deb and Steve Boczenowski in gratitude for this loving and compassionate congregation.

Have a Peaceful Holiday Season.

Greeters: Becky Barth, Austin Edwards, Clio and Eric Fisher,
and Dody and Emma Hudson

Ushers: Donna Nowak 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.

FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



Artwork by Small Group Ministry

DECEMBER - PACKING LIGHT

What keeps you from the great adventure life is calling you to? What are the logical or practical explanations that get in your way? What needs to be released to travel more lightly? (Christine Valters Paintner)

This is the difference between being a tourist and a pilgrim. A tourist has new experiences, but remains the same person. A pilgrim experiences new places and is transformed by them. We can only be freed by what lies ahead if we leave behind our baggage. (Christine Valters Paintner)

"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.