

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

December 13, 2015

## Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike

## Thoughts as the Service Begins:

May all beings be filled with joy and peace  
May all beings everywhere,  
The strong and the weak,  
The great and the small  
The mean and the powerful,  
The short and the long,  
The subtle and the gross;

May all beings everywhere,  
Seen and unseen,  
Dwelling far off or nearby,  
Being or waiting to become;  
May all be filled with lasting joy. (Sutta Nipatta)

*(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

Capriccio (W.A. Mozart)

## Call to Worship

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

## Welcome and Announcements

Amy Grosso, Worship Leader

## \*Hymn

Gonna Sing/Sweet Low/When The Saints Mash-Up  
*(see insert)*

## Chalice Lighting

Steve Boczenowski

## Lighting of the Menorah

Laura Scolnick-Guilmette  
and Natalie Guilmette

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Rev. Elea Kemler & friends

## 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** the Dancing Master of Joy (adapted)

## 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

With Songs Of Rejoicing (J.S. Bach /Hal Hopson)  
Adult Choir

## Reading

excerpt from Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel

## Spoken Prayer and Silent Meditation

Rev. Elea Kemler

## Offertory

Fughetta in C (Buxtehude)

## 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

If We Don't Believe in Hell, Does It Still Exist?  
Karen G. Johnston, Intern Minister

## \*Hymn

Now Let Us Sing #368

## \*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 I (Samuel Wesley)

*(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 donated by Greg and Kathy Reiff in gratitude for all our many blessings.

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Greeters: Judy Nauman, Dix Littlepage and Suzanne Nelson  
Ushers: Donna Nowak and Tom Rooney  
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 is a Unitarian Universalist Association Welcoming Congregation. We warmly welcome members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.*

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



*"Wolfgang Amadeus McCann" conveyed by Craig Heusser*

## 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 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](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.