

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

January 17, 2016

**Ringing of the Bell** Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

## A Thought as the Service Begins:

The struggle for racial justice is a struggle to attain a different expression of human wholeness: one in which my inner life is grounded in a restored communion with the transpersonal source of grace and wholeness, and the primordial fact of the connectedness of all life. (Rebecca Parker)

We are at a crucial crossroads in the history of this nation – and we either hang together by combating these forces that divide and degrade us or we hang separately. Do we have the intelligence, humor, imagination, courage, tolerance, love, respect, and will to meet the challenge? Time will tell. None of us alone can save the nation or world. But each of us can make a positive difference if we commit ourselves to do so. (Cornel West)

*(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** Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum (Claude Debussy)

**Call to Worship:** Open My Heart (Henry S. Flurry)  
Children's Choir

**Welcome and Announcements** Steve Boczenowski, Worship Leader

**\*Hymn** We Laugh, We Cry (verses 1 & 4) #354

**Chalice Lighting** June Johnson,  
for the Racial Justice Working Group

**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** Karen G. Johnston

**Anthem:** Open the Window (Elise Witt) - Children's Choir

## Singing the Children and Teachers to Church School

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

**Reading** Welcome to Our World by Kareem Abdul-Jabar

**Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation** Rev. Elea Kemler

**Offertory:** The Thaw (Steve Burne)

**Offertory Response** *Words: Barbara Rich; Music: Joshua Rich*

Today we give our time  
Our compassion, wit and song  
Everyday we can choose,  
To begin again in love.

We give what we can,  
Generous as we can  
Opening the doors  
To begin again in love.

**Sermon** Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression, Multiculturalism:  
What's in It for White People - Ken Wagner

**\*Hymn** Come Sing a Song with Me #346

**Closing Words** Ken Wagner

**\*Sung Benediction** Carry the Flame  
Carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again.  
Oh, carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again.

**Postlude:** Postludium (Erno von Dohnanyi)

*(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.***

*Continued on Back Cover*

*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!*

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The flowers in church this morning are given by Laura Scholnik Guilmette in memory of Sam and Lilyan Bachrach. Lilyan would have been 99 this year and they were both supporters of Civil Rights.

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Greeters: Loretto & Tom Rooney and Deb Boczenowski  
Ushers: Susan Hughes and Holly Estes  
Coffee Hour Host: Austin Edwards

**TODAY'S GUEST PREACHER:** Ken Wagner is involved in many past and current lay leadership roles within the UUA and our wider denomination. He is currently a member of the Northborough congregation and serves on the Unitarian Universalist Association's Nominating Committee and on Clara Barton District Leadership Development committee. In June he will begin a two-year term as President of the UU group, Allices for Racial Equity. Most locally, he facilitated an 8-week journey of discovery with First Parish's own Racial Justice Working Group.

**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.

**THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON** was gathered as the town church in 1664. The congregation worships in its fourth Meeting House which was completed in 1755. A town clock and Revere-cast bell rings out our call to service every Sunday. The congregation is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association, a liberal faith that affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth; a free and responsible search for truth and meaning; the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large; the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; and respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH

## Groton, Massachusetts



*Artwork by Joni Parker Roach*

### JANUARY - CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

A voice comes to your soul saying,  
Lift your foot. Cross over.  
Move into emptiness  
Of question, and answer and question. (Rumi)

When we embark on an intentional journey like a pilgrimage, we are making a commitment to live in the space of threshold. Threshold is the liminal place, the place of not knowing how things will turn out. I believe it is the place of possibility. (Christine Valter Paintner)

*"We are a community seeking to deepen spiritually, to take care of one another, and to be a blessing to the world."*

### 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.